

Fine-tuning Our Focus on Missions

Lessons 9-12

Adult Missions Education 2020



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Let's Get Started!

Welcome to the 2020 Adult Missions Education. You may notice changes, but you can be sure the current missions content should appeal to a wide range of ages in your congregation.

New: A Staggered Release of Lessons

This year, we are releasing Adult Missions Education lessons in a new way. Four lessons will be released in **March**, four in **July**, and four in **November**. With these releases will also come videos for many lessons. Lessons and videos are being translated into French, Portuguese, and Spanish. All lessons and videos will be available on the NMI website (www.nazarene.org/nmi) and may be downloaded for free.

Launching a New Learning Year

- Review this guide, noting upcoming topics and planning the lessons within your church calendar. Some options may require more than a month to initiate; keep this in mind as you plan.
- While the lessons are planned for approximately an hour, material can be used for shorter “missions moments” in worship services, Sunday school classes, small groups, and fellowship times.
- Consider your group. If they like to discuss, plan such times in the sessions. Some people learn while “doing.” Provide topic-sensitive activities, and your group will remember the information better.
- If you wish to use a video, plan for any technical equipment needed and test the audio and video in advance of your session.

Something New: A number of lessons have intergenerational components or aspects of the topic designed specifically for youth and/or children. This is ideal for involving those age levels and letting them know they have roles in missions.

The Lessons

Most lessons follow the same format. Using the summary below, familiarize yourself with lesson components and their purposes.

- **Lesson Purpose:** Missions stories are inspiring and more memorable when listeners understand the importance behind them. Stating the purpose isn't necessary, but consider it in your planning.
- **Scripture:** The verses coordinate with the topic. These are sometimes used within the presentations. If not, please read them to the group. This helps your people associate scripture with missions.
- **Fast Facts:** These statistics about the lesson topic are, at times, worked into the presentation. For those times when they are not, use them to enrich the learning experience.
- **Lesson Information:** This may include an introduction, one or more missions stories, and sometimes additional material on the topic. Use as much of the Lesson Information as time allows.
- **Presentation Ideas:** There are three options to present the material. Feel free to create your own.
 - Option 1 is for groups that, due to space or lifestyle, prefer to stay seated during the session.
 - Option 2 is for groups that prefer moving around the room as they learn.
 - Option 3 is for groups that prefer in-depth discussion. You may add questions. Just keep the group on topic.
- **ACT ON IT:** These practical ideas for personal involvement pertain to the lesson topic. They are varied and can include prayer, giving, and participating in local or global projects that may turn into long-term ministries for your church.
- **Recipes:** Food is culture! In most lessons, we have included recipes from places mentioned in the material. Many were provided by Nazarenes who lived/live in that area. Because the recipes are global, measurements and temperatures may differ from where you live.
- **Resources:** This lists websites, videos, books, and additional articles on the lesson topic. If you are reading the PDF version of the guide, the web links are live, so you can go directly to the web page.
- **Handouts:** These are as varied as their topics. They may be puzzles, reader's theatre scripts, information reminders, and discussion tools. Most lessons have at least one, but feel free to create your own to coordinate with your presentation. When people take something home, they can think further about the topic, allowing God to speak.

Additional Ideas to Enrich the Presentation

- In most options, we suggest that others assist you in the presentation. Involvement invests individuals in the topic and helps them remember and apply the concepts taught.
- Visit this website throughout the year for additional information about the lesson topics: Nazarene Missions International (www.nazarene.org/nmi).
- Many people may be unfamiliar with the locations mentioned in this guide. Help them by having a world map or a globe available.

Fine-tuning Our Focus on Missions

This year's theme is meant to build upon last year's: Bringing New Focus to Missions. Help bring focus to our mission as a church, and to understand our individual and local church role(s) in carrying out that mission to God's glory. There are "focus" lessons on mission areas: old and new. We will meet missionaries: newly sent and retiring. Of course, within these lessons, we focus on our Top 5 Areas of Impact: Prayer, World Evangelism Fund, Alabaster, Engaging Children and Youth, and Links. Participation in each of these areas connects people to the larger Nazarene family. As the group progresses through the lesson content and learning activities, there should be a deeper clarity and an expanding appreciation for NMI and its purpose to "mobilize the church in missions." Both are relevant and imperative to the growth and maturing of the local church, increasing its significant reach around the world. Through stories and scriptures and missions principles, we fine-tune the focus through an NMI lens, which should help us to see what we may have missed, or clarify our vision for what we must be and do to participate effectively in sharing the eternal purposes of God in missions.

This Year's Authors

For the 2020 *Adult Missions Education* lessons, three writers present four lessons each:

Debbie Salter Goodwin

Debbie has served with her husband, Mark, for 40 years of pastoral ministry. Debbie is a freelance writer, speaker, and spiritual formation blogger living in Roswell, Georgia, USA.

Cheryl Crouch

Early in her marriage Cheryl served with her husband, Jeff, as a Nazarene missionary to Papua New Guinea. More recently, she has been a local and district NMI president. Cheryl is an active layperson, teacher, and writer living in Denton, Texas, USA.

John Haines

John Haines serves as the executive assistant to the global NMI director. John served on the Eurasia Region as regional education coordinator prior to his current assignment with NMI.

We thank every contributor for the part they have played in bringing this year's *Adult Missions Education* together.

Throughout the process of bringing these lessons together, we are seeking to "fine-tune our focus on missions" in order to be better equipped to work together in this great missions enterprise. Biblically, this find its roots in the living out of our disciple lives with clarity, singularity, and holy passion to be the holy people of God, and to bring glory to Him. We really do need each other. Our lives and work are enriched, because together with you, in Jesus' name, we are changing our world.

Lola Brickey
Global NMI Director

Setting the Scene

Setting the Scene for Lessons 9-12, released on 1 November 2020; we have taken a mixed approach, using the lessons of all three writers...one we trust will be enlightening and helpful. Lessons 9 and 12 were developed in the original plan for 2020, but Lessons 10-11 were developed in the midst of COVID-19 and the challenges it presented to the church.

As you read and make use of the following four NMI lessons, be mindful of the following:

1. It has been an extraordinary time since our first release on 1 March, with all that has occurred in our world and the life of the church due to the COVID-19 pandemic. What an opportunity to find new ways and open doors of ministry for the Church of the Nazarene around the world.
2. You will have noticed a difference in Lessons 5-8. They were written to be used primarily in the context of small groups such as families at home or traditional church settings, include activity options for children and youth, and can be presented through video conferencing such as Zoom and WhatsApp as well as in person. The lessons are more devotional in nature and will work well in a group of any size, in any setting.
3. While it is never certain when lessons will be presented, these final four have been written to close out the year with celebration and covenant to do all we can to see the missions enterprise of the Church of the Nazarene thrive in challenging times. They may be used in small-group settings in the local church, in the home, or possibly in personal study.
 - Lesson 9 focuses on one of the oldest mission fields in the Church of the Nazarene. From a small group of islands, Cabo Verde, has sent missionaries around the world, and continues to do so.
 - Lesson 10 focuses on how NMI seeks to bring the praying church to focus on prayer. It provides some historical background to the Prayer Mobilization Line (PML) as well as the annual Nazarene World Week of Prayer; but it stresses the role of the Holy Spirit to actually prompt us to pray when we cannot know the details of the situation for which He calls us to pray.
 - Lesson 11 focuses on what it means to give in the midst of crises. The year 2020 has certainly been one of many crises to which the church has sought to respond, whether in the local setting or in efforts to help others around the world.
 - Lesson 12 focuses on extending the reach of the local church in missions, and seeks to demonstrate the ways in which the local church participates in the new sending model of missionaries to fields of service.

NOTE: In this final group of lessons, you may find that some of the activities are not easily done if you are not yet able to meet in church group settings. Don't let this prevent you from studying the lesson and drawing from it all you can. An easy way to respond to all lessons is to work with the Act On It items provided. These are good exercises for individuals or family groups to think through the lesson and consider how you might become more engaged in missions, both locally and globally.

9

Cabo Verde: Islands with a Mission to the World

by Debbie Salter Goodwin

LESSON PURPOSE

To review the 119-year influence of the Church of the Nazarene in Cabo Verde, celebrate what God has done, and understand how Cabo Verde continues to be instrumental in spreading the Gospel through the Portuguese-speaking world.

SCRIPTURE:

"I will set a sign among them, and I will send some . . . to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations." (Isaiah 66:19, NIV)

FAST FACTS

- Cabo Verde is the third oldest Nazarene missions work, started in 1901.
- Cabo Verde is a part of the Africa Region and the Lusophone Field.
- Cabo Verde is divided into two districts. The Cabo Verde Norte (Cabo Verde North District) includes the islands of Santo Antão, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Sal, and Boavista. The North District has 21 churches with 2,820 members (2019). The largest church is in Mindelo, with an average worship attendance of 272.
- The Cabo Verde Sul (Cabo Verde South District) includes the islands of Maio, Santiago, Fogo, and Brava. The district has 43 churches and 5,690 (2019) members. The largest church is in the capital city of Praia, with an average worship attendance of 258.

LESSON INFORMATION

Introduction

Look at Cabo Verde on the map, and you will understand the complexity of trying to establish a mission work of continuity and growth. However, hear that Cabo Verde has a 119-year history with the Church of Nazarene story and you want to know how it happened. The answer points to more than one person or strategy. It is the working together of Cabo Verdean pioneer spirit, perseverance and an amazing intersection between God's opportunities and faithful obedience. This is a story you need to know.

A Brief History

The Republic of Cabo Verde is a group of ten volcanic islands in the Atlantic Ocean about 300 miles (483 kilometers) off the west coast of Africa from Senegal. Portuguese settlers arrived in 1462 and established the city of Santiago, named for Saint James. Almost 550,000 people (2019) live distributed among nine inhabited islands. Roman Catholicism, with African elements, became the most prevalent religion. However, the Church of the Nazarene is first on the list of Protestant faith groups today. While Portuguese is the official language, a Creole based Portuguese is the oldest language on the islands and still used.

Cabo Verde means Cape Green and it describes these tropical islands very well. Green slides down between mountain peaks and spreads a lush richness that paints the valleys with mosaics of every green hue imaginable. White sandy beaches lure tourists. Cities are multi-colored collections of painted stucco and brick-colored roofs. Beauty abounds.

First Nazarene Missionaries

Rev. João Dias

João was born and raised in Cabo Verde on the island of Brava. The son of a ship captain, João, accompanied his father in 1889 to the east coast of the United States. He found a Portuguese community in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Two years later, he visited a Protestant mission. There, João heard the gospel in a way his Roman Catholic upbringing had never communicated it. As he grew in his new life in Christ, he developed a passion for returning to his homeland and sharing the message of full surrender and holy living.

João Dias returned to Cabo Verde in 1901 with limited financial support from the Pentecostal Churches of America (PCA). When the PCA merged with the Church of the Nazarene in 1907,

Cabo Verde became a mission endeavor for the Church of the Nazarene and kept its date of origin.

The beginning for João was not easy. Unfortunately, he met more fists than smiles because his message did not support the Creole-African-Catholic derivative the people embraced. His story read like Paul's: imprisoned four times, stoned, beaten until unconscious. Nevertheless, he continued to share his testimony. Some responded and gave their lives to Christ. They were also persecuted, some brutally.

By 1914, João had planted a church on the island of Brava with 60 members. It was a homeland work from the beginning.

Rev. and Mrs. Everett Howard

By 1930, it was clear that to take the Gospel to all nine inhabited islands would require more help. Everett and Garnet Howard were Nazarene missionaries sent in 1936, over 30 years after Rev. Dias started his work. (*Upon This Rock*)

The Howards found more than just a pioneer work needing help. They discovered a foundation ready for expansion. As Rev. Howard assessed the work that Rev. Dias had built, Howard believed that the nine islands could become a district and set out to strategically plant work on key islands that could reach out to other islands.

Unfortunately, island travel was still primitive and created challenges. Their daughter, Jo, born in Cabo Verde, remembers traveling island to island by sailboat, completely dependent on wind more than schedule. A rowboat would meet the sailboat, transfer passengers, row hard to shore, then carry passengers to dry land, running like crazy to keep ahead of the next wave.

Rev. Howard also carried a burden to train new pastors. He called himself a "temporary trainer." Before he left the field in 1951, mission work existed on all but three islands.

Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Gay

God orchestrated a providential intersection during this critical time. Clifford Gay was a faith missionary from Wales ministering in Angola. When Rev. Gay needed to travel through Cabo Verde to his destination, he met Everett Howard. God used their meeting to call Clifford to help in Cabo Verde. Within the next ten years, Clifford joined the Church of the Nazarene, was ordained, and became a Nazarene missionary. The Gays established a critical work in the capital city of Praia, pastored in Brava, and he was appointed as field superintendent in 1958. He died

unexpectedly in 1972, serving 30 years in Cabo Verde.

Rev. and Mrs. Earl Mosteller

In 1946 Rev. and Mrs. Earl Mosteller joined the missionary force in Cabo Verde, serving first in the capital city of Praia on Santiago island and establishing a new work in São Vicente. He organized a newsletter for Cabo Verde called the *Epistle (Lima Thesis)*. He pastored, restored buildings, oversaw new work construction in the 12 years, and served in several leadership positions. He was the catalyst and initial glue for two important developments: a Nazarene Portuguese publishing endeavor and a Nazarene Seminary for Portuguese speaking students. (See more information under "Three New Beginnings.")

More missionaries came as needs surfaced, and people were available. The Sraders spent nine years in Cabo Verde, 1972 to 1981. They were there when Portuguese held islands won independence in 1975. They helped the church respond to the rapidly changing political environment. Moving forward, God called pastors from Cabo Verde, who continued to build on the foundation of so many committed pioneers. One of those was Luciano Gomes de Barros.

The Luciano Gomes de Barros Story

Luciano Barros was a professional photographer on the island of Santiago. When Rev. Howard arrived in Praia looking for a place to hold services, he investigated Luciano's photography studio. Even though Barros was a staunch Catholic, he thought the group could help him with his English. He and his son, Jorge, were among those attending a service when Rev. Howard presented the Gospel and asked people to respond with a raised hand. Luciano raised his hand along with his son. However, no one saw seven-year-old Jorge's hand, so Jorge stood on his chair and raised his hand to get the missionary's attention. That night, both prayed sincere prayers of repentance that changed the direction of their lives.

God called Luciano to preach. Luciano sold his business and started Bible lessons with Rev. Howard. By 1943 Luciano Barros was pastoring the Brava church and traveled throughout most of the islands. He was known as a man of prayer and carried a folded piece of leather in his pocket so he could kneel anywhere and pray. In 1946 he moved to Fogo Island to preach. During his first month, there were 60 conversions.

Once, Rev. Barros preached to a whole village gathered to hear his message. When Pastor Barros finally asked who wanted to confess their sin and

accept Jesus as Savior, the entire village raised their hands and became Christians. The next year when the village struggled through a major famine that struck the islands, no one died from hunger. The villagers were quick to tell anyone that prayer made the difference.

Throughout Rev. Barros' ministry, many tell stories they can explain no other way except as miracles. For example, when the island people needed rain, Rev. Barros challenged them to pray. No one considered it a coincidence when freshwater poured from the crater of the Fogo island volcano and continues to flow today! The people of Cabo Verde still talk about it as "the miracle of the rock."

Rev. Barros pastored until 1980. Throughout his ministry, government leaders, teachers, and officials came to hear him preach. Rev Howard called him "as good an orator as one would find anywhere." However, the description that meant the most to Luciano was when Cabo Verdeans called him "the weeping Jeremiah."

Three Beginnings

A Nazarene Seminary in Cabo Verde

As 1950 dawned, Cabo Verdean leadership understood that if they wanted Cabo Verde to grow, they needed to train new pastors. Rev. Howard had initiated earlier training for 15 prospective pastors in 1936-38. While this training served early needs, it was time to make a substantial investment in pastoral education. Rev. Mosteller, who had arrived in Cabo Verde in 1946, put vision and plan together to establish a three-year seminary in Mindelo on the island of São Vicente. Missionary Rev. Elton Wood became the first director. Missionaries Wood, Mosteller, and Roy Henck carried the main teaching load. They graduated their first students in 1956 and sent five couples to start works on islands that did not have a Church of the Nazarene.

Today the school has three full-time professors, four part-time and five adjuncts. They enroll about 38 students per year. Their graduates have become missionaries, pastors, and teachers in at least seven countries, including some Portuguese-speaking congregations in North America. Also of note is how instrumental the Cabo Verde Seminary has been in opening and establishing ministry in Portuguese-speaking African countries.

A Nazarene Portuguese Publishing House

Humberto Pires Ferreira was a government administrator on Brava island. At one of the loneliest times in his life, Humberto stepped into

a Nazarene church in Santa Catarina and knelt at an altar to turn his life over to God. When God claimed Humberto, He claimed his talents and interests as well. He was an accomplished organist, violinist, poet, and composer and began to use his skills wherever his new church needed him.

When Earl Mosteller found out about Mr. Ferreira, he believed he was the right person to help put feet to a vision for publishing holiness material in Portuguese. Rev. Mosteller recruited Humberto as the director of the first Nazarene printing facility on the islands. They started by printing gospel tracts. With the administrative skills of Mr. Ferreira, the work grew to the publishing of books. In 1952 Ferreira published the first Nazarene Portuguese hymnal, *Graça e Devoção (Grace and Devotion)*, translating most of the 424 hymns himself.

What began as a printing press and a vision grew to be the largest publisher of Portuguese Holiness material in the world! At Ferreira's death in 1969, Missionary Elton Wood said, "We have lost that great fertile mind which produced so many practical and productive ideas."

When the International Publications Board of the Church of the Nazarene (Kansas City, USA) took on more of the publishing of Portuguese literature, it became difficult to sustain the Cabo Verde publishing endeavor. In 1994, the Cabo Verde publishing work ceased to function. However, no one can reduce the impact that this publishing ministry had on the islands and Portuguese-speaking people around the world.

A Nazarene Portuguese Radio Broadcast

Remember the son of the professional photographer who stood on a chair to declare his desire to accept Jesus into his life? Jorge Barros grew up to be a pastor, just like his father. While pastoring the Mindelo Church of the Nazarene, he joined a new amateur radio club because of his interest in two-way shortwave global communication. In their first meeting, they elected Rev. Barros as president. When he accepted, he joked by saying, "I'm glad you gave me a job today. Tomorrow I have a pastoral recall vote and might not have a job tomorrow." The group was fascinated by this "vote" because living under a dictatorship, these people didn't vote on anything.

The next morning, as he prepared for the Sunday service, he found out that a local radio station wanted to broadcast this "election" as news for the island. Rev. Barros refused to change anything about the service, "We're here to worship Christ, and He is the most important person in this

church." When the vote was taken at the end of the service, it was a unanimous four-year call.

The next day, the director of a radio station stopped Rev. Barros. He had heard him on the radio and suggested that Barros have a regular radio program on his station.

"But I can't afford it," Rev Barros countered.

The radio director responded, "I will broadcast it for free. When can you start?"

The next week after the first regular program was broadcast, the director of a competing radio station came to Rev. Barros and complained, "You gave your program to our competition. Why did you not come to us?"

Barros wisely answered, "If you charge the same, I will also broadcast on your station."

The same interchange happened with still another radio station with the same result—free broadcast for the Church of the Nazarene. That was the beginning of an island-wide regular broadcast of the Church of the Nazarene in Portuguese for 16 years!

When denominational leaders heard about the radio program, they sent a representative to investigate the possibility of making the program a denominational broadcast for a wider reach. Rev. Barros would travel to the United States and record three months of sermons for the broadcast. Then, in 1973, the denomination asked Jorge Barros to move to Kansas City, USA as director of Portuguese Literature and voice for A Hora Nazarena (The Nazarene Hour) in Portuguese.

When Jorge Barros retired, 73 stations carried the broadcast in seven Portuguese-speaking countries with over 9 million people listening. Jorge Barros, the little boy who stood up on a chair to declare his decision to follow Jesus, became the Portuguese voice heard around the world.

One of Our Own

Another world-reaching event occurred in 2009 when Cabo Verdean Eugénio Duarte was elected as the 37th General Superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene.

Eugénio Duarte was the fifth and last child born in the Duarte family on the island of Brava. His parents feared he would not survive because four babies before him had died. However, God had a purpose for Eugénio that would take him beyond the islands and give him a bigger family.

When Eugénio was 12 years old, he met Nazarene missionary Clifford Gay who was teaching his Sunday school class. God spoke clearly to this adolescent and Eugénio surrendered his life to God and never turned away. While reading Hannah Whitall Smith's, *The Christian's*

Secret of a Happy Life, he fully surrendered his life to be formed and directed as God desired.

After high school in Mindelo on the island of São Vicente, he had the opportunity to work as secretary to the island administrator. Here he connected with the Church of the Nazarene. In 1974 he married Maria Teresa. When Cabo Verde became an independent republic in 1975, the newly formed government had their eye on young Duarte. They wanted to send him to Moscow for a degree in electrical engineering. However, God had called Eugénio Duarte to preach. The call from God took precedence. He enrolled in the Nazarene Seminary in Cabo Verde and pastored on the island of Santo Antão. He was ordained in 1981 and began to demonstrate leadership skills early. He made significant contributions in various responsibilities, including leadership of the Nazarene publishing work in Cabo Verde, district treasurer, seminary teaching, pastor, and district superintendent.

The scope of his leadership kept finding larger circles. He served as strategy coordinator for the newly organized Portuguese-speaking Lusophone Field that was comprised of the Cabo Verde islands and other Portuguese African countries. He became field strategy coordinator for Central Africa in 2003. In 2005 he was elected as regional director for Africa, the position he had to resign in order to accept his election as general superintendent.

Dr. Duarte brought his multi-lingual skills, administrative and strategizing experience, and his commitment to His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when he was elected general superintendent. To the Cabo Verdean delegation, he was one of their own. They waved their flags and broke into their favorite song, "If You Believe and I Believe." It was a "Dias-to-Duarte" full-circle moment for Cabo Verde.

Continued Expansion

When Cabo Verdeans of the Church of the Nazarene gathered for their 65th assembly, they were in celebration mode. Attendance for this occasion nearly doubled what a District Assembly usually brought together. What was the reason? The District of Cabo Verde had grown big enough that leaders decided it was time to divide. With 64 churches, 50 ordained ministers, 10 licensed ministers, 5 lay pastors, and a little more than 8,000 members, leadership believed that two districts could grow faster and use resources better than one. Even more unique was the fact that their own Eugénio Duarte, native Cabo Verdean elected general superintendent, presided over this

celebration. The new district would be called Cabo Verde North while the original district became Cabo Verde South.

Another history-making moment occurred in 2019 when the new Cabo Verde North District elected Leniza Soares as their district superintendent. Daughter of pastor-parents and Mozambique African missionaries, Leniza was part of the teaching faculty for the Seminary.

Contemplating the Story

Pioneered by Cabo Verdean João Dias, strategically grown with continued emphasis on Cabo Verdean leadership, Cabo Verde had become something of a global sending center for their part of the world. But how? What helped this crescent island group grow such a wide reach?

One answer is the way that Cabo Verde produced missionaries even while the work depended on the missionaries that came to them. From the beginning, God called young men and women to leave their island homes and take the gospel to Portuguese-speaking countries. They went to Angola, Portugal, and Brazil. Missionary Earl Mosteller once suggested that we would not have the work in Africa we have today without the support of Cabo Verde.

Another answer is that Cabo Verdean leaders and missionaries accepted the opportunities God provided at the right time. While meeting the needs of their own country, they became a center for training pastors, for publishing holiness literature, and broadcasting a holiness message for Portuguese-speaking language groups. They were often the first messengers who went into a country by tract or radio wave before there was any organized work from the Church of the Nazarene.

Retired missionary, Elton Wood, summarized the impact of Cabo Verde this way: "It was based on the first dedicated missionaries and the integrity of the first national pastors and their wives and children, for the second generation took the torch and marched on with it."

Cabo Verde acted out the message of Isaiah 66:19. They took the message of scriptural holiness to distant islands and countries and proclaimed the glory of God among other nations.

Cabo Verde has been a David among many giants! We need more Davids like them.

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Option 1—Cabo Verde: Islands with a Mission to the World

Prepare

- Make copies of **Handout 1: Cabo Verde Map**.
- Make copies of **Handout 2: Cabo Verde Quiz**, one for each member.
- Prepare **Lesson Information** by highlighting each island name and writing the map number and map icon beside it so that you can direct participants to locate the places in your presentation.
- Optional: Divide the lesson into **First Missionaries, Three Beginnings, One of Our Own**, and recruit a presenter for each section. Make a copy of the appropriate information for each presenter. Give each presenter a copy of **Handout 1: Cabo Verde Map**. Instruct them to give participants a chance to find the places you refer to in your presentation.

Present

- After introducing the session, hand out copies of the **Cabo Verde Map (Handout 1)**. Prepare the group to refer to the map and icons to locate significant developments of Cabo Verde.
- Present information from **Introduction** and **A Brief History** as background. Prepare the group to expect a quiz at the end of the presentation.
- If you are using different presenters, introduce them, and let them share information about the beginning and development of Nazarene missions in Cabo Verde. When an island is mentioned, stop and ask the group to find the island on their map.
- Use the information from **Continued Expansion** and **Contemplating the Story** to close the presentation.
- Distribute **Handout 2: Cabo Verde Quiz**. Give the group a chance to circle their answers. Use the answers on **Handout 2: Answer Sheet** to confirm the correct answers. Optional: Share a fun reward with those who got at least six or more correct.
- End your session with prayer for Cabo Verde, the pastors, and this generation of ministry leaders who continue to reach people for Christ in their part of the world.

Option 2—Cabo Verde: Green and Growing

Prepare

- Prepare a 10-15 minute summary of the **Lesson Information**. Include the key information about people and places from each section.
- Set up three stations where your group can rotate through at least two of the three stations and complete an exercise sheet.
- Optional: Consider providing a small reward for anyone who finishes all three stations.

Set up three stations: Map It, Match It, Order It. Provide the following for each station:

- o A title sign for each station: Map It, Match It, Order It.
- o Pens and/or pencils
- o Enough copies of each of the following handouts to spread on the table as reference material for participants to use to complete an exercise:
 - a. **Handout 1: Cabo Verde Map for Map It.**
 - b. **Handout 4: Cabo Verde Profiles for Match It.** Cut them apart, so there is one profile per sheet. Back with construction paper (optional) and lay them on the table for reference.
 - c. **Handout 6: Cabo Verde Timeline for Order It.**
- o Reproduce the following Handouts, one per participant:
 - a. **Handout 3: Map It Quiz**
 - b. **Handout 5: Match It Quiz**
 - c. **Handout 7: Order It Quiz**
- o Also, make one copy of **Handout 8-Answer Sheet**

Present

- Begin the session with a 10-15 minute presentation about the history, missionaries, and developments of the Church of the Nazarene in Cabo Verde.
- After the presentation, explain that everyone will have an opportunity to complete at least two of three learning exercises.
- Identify the three stations. Explain how there will be reference sheets on the table to help them answer the quiz questions.
- Allow the group to go to the station of their choice in the order of their preference without overloading stations. Optional: Give a simple reward to anyone who finishes all three stations.
- When you bring the group back together, use **Handout 8: Answer Sheet** to check answers.
- Ask the group any of the following questions to summarize their learning experience:
 - What were key turning points in leadership and ministry development?
 - What allowed Cabo Verde to make such an extensive reach into Portugal, Brazil, and Africa from such a small island country?
 - What contribution did the election of Dr. Eugénio Duarte make to the globalization of the Church of the Nazarene?
- Close with a prayer for Cabo Verde and your local church's part in the global mission.

Option 3—How Did Cabo Verde Make a Difference?

Prepare

- Be prepared to share key information from Lesson Information that your group will need to answer questions and stimulate discussion.

Present

Part 1: The Beginning

Present the information from **A Brief History** and **The First Nazarene Missionaries**. Then, choose the questions you want to discuss with the group.

- What impact might João Dias' perseverance during persecution have had in beginning the work in Cabo Verde?
- What are the possible positive and negative implications of the 36 years between João Dias and another missionary coming to Cabo Verde?
- What strategy did Rev. Howard apply to grow the work? How could you use his multi-island approach with your church and community? (Hint: think ministries and neighborhoods instead of islands.)
- What characterized the ministry of Rev. Luciano Barros? What can you learn from Rev. Barros about prayer?

Part II: Three Important Beginnings

Share a summary of the beginning of a seminary, a printing center, and a radio broadcast from **Three Important Beginnings**. Then, choose questions to discuss this information.

- How did a seminary in Cabo Verde impact Nazarene growth in this world area?
- Instead of a seminary, what demonstrates a commitment to spiritual education in your family or church?
- Why was printing literature a priority for Cabo Verde?
- How did it impact growth beyond Cabo Verde?
- Where does publishing impact your Christian life? How can you continue to support it?
- How was the radio broadcast more opportunity than vision?
- What happens if we make vision more important than the opportunities God presents?

- What happens when the two coincide?
- What principles can you take away from these three beginnings and apply them personally as well as in ministry?

Part III: One of Our Own

Share the story of Dr. Eugénio Duarte from **One of Our Own**. Then, choose any of the following questions to stimulate discussion.

- Why was the election of Dr. Eugénio Duarte a first for the Church of the Nazarene?
- How did God prepare Dr. Duarte for this key place of leadership?
- How does your church make leadership development a priority in your children, youth, and young adult ministry?
- How does today's global representation through our general superintendents help us actualize the desire to be a global church?
- How do you "globalize" in your local church?

Part IV Continued Expansion

Share a summary of what is happening in Cabo Verde today from **Continued Expansion** and **Contemplating the Story** as well as any **Fast Facts** that are helpful before asking the following summary questions.

- What part did the self-sacrificing integrity of early pastors have in sustaining the work in Cabo Verde?
- Why do you think Cabo Verdeans made a celebration out of dividing their country into two districts?
- Having reviewed the whole story, what do you think made the biggest difference in the growth and stability of Cabo Verde?
- What is the impact of their longevity?
- How was Cabo Verde a bridge to work in Africa?

End your group's review of Cabo Verde by praying for their sustained growth and impact in the world.

ACT ON IT (practical ideas for personal involvement)

- Are there any Portuguese-speaking communities in your area? Investigate Nazarene Portuguese literature and consider how you could share an event with them.
- How could you participate in prayer Luciano Barros style (Ex: Take pictures around the church of neighborhoods, parks, schools, hospitals, retirement/rehab facilities, etc.) Pray for where people gather regularly and allow God to give you opportunities you didn't expect.
- Be prepared to give your group a chance to contribute to the World Mission Broadcast.
- Think of your church as an island—how far does its influence reach?

RESOURCES ("handy helps" for the leader)

- **Websites**
 - "If You Believe and I Believe" is the song Cabo Verdeans adopted in their worship from the beginning of the Church of the Nazarene in Cabo Verde. Words and recorded music available here: https://hymnary.org/tune/if_you_believe_and_i_believe
 - The World Mission Broadcast website gives a history and current involvement as well as ways to support. <https://nazarene.org/wmb>
 - Cabo Verde Flag. You will find a picture here: <https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/capeverde/cvflags.htm>
- **Articles**
 - *General Assembly and Conventions Daily Summary*, Wed. July 1, 2009. This article describes the election of Dr. Duarte as General Superintendent. http://web.nazarene.org/site/DocServer/Summary_8_Wed_1.pdf?docID=3581&JServSessionIda011=9lraqkyb21.app33d

- **Books**

- Crofford, Amy; Crofford, Brad. *Messengers of Holiness: Stories of Africa Missionaries*, Chapter 1, "Small Islands, Big Impact." Beacon Hill Press.
- Dayhoff, Paul S. *Living Stones in Africa: Pioneers of the Church of the Nazarene*, revised edition. Beacon Hill Press, 1999.
- Reed, Donald, J. Elton Wood, and Jeanine Van Beek. *Upon This Rock: Nazarene Missions in the Middle East, Cape Verde, and Europe*. Chapter 1. (Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1972). Chapter 1.

- **Videos**

- Videos to promote the World Mission Broadcast. <https://nazarene.org/wmb-promotional-resources> or <https://medialibrary.nazarene.org/app/portal/search.aspx?PortalID=ee9b0aac-8372-4615-91c4-43872b4db581&IsLivePreview=false&q=WMB>
- Dr. Eugénio Duarte's testimony for SDMI connecting his conversion to Sunday school. 1:32 minutes. conversion. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xao99gsOIE>
- Dr. Eugénio Duarte elected General Superintendent as the Cabo Verdean delegation celebrates. 1:27 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax6FHH5Z6s0>

RECIPES

This traditional beans and rice combination is called Jagacida or Jag for short. Share it on a table decorated with the Cabo Verde flag (or picture) and printed photos from **Handout 9** of images of Church of the Nazarene buildings. Optional: Use plastic florist forks to hold pictures. Stand in clay or floral marble-filled decorative containers. Use a navy table covering with a wide red ribbon horizontally across the table. Add yellow napkins to emulate Cabo Verde's national colors.

Jagacida or Jag (Beans and Rice)

Ingredients

Serves 12

- 2 tablespoons (28 grams) butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 6 cups (1.42 liters) water
- 1 tablespoon (7 grams) smokey paprika (can substitute plain paprika)
- 2 bay leaves
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups (631 grams) rice, uncooked
- 1 15-ounce (430-gram) can of kidney beans (some recipes use lima beans.)

Directions:

1. Chop onions. Melt butter in a 2-quart (2-liter) pan. Cook until onions have lightly browned.
2. Add 6 cups (1.42 liters) of water along with paprika, bay leaves, salt, and pepper.
3. Bring to boil. Add rice. Turn heat to low.
4. Add beans. Cover pan and simmer for 25 minutes until rice absorbs water without going dry.
5. Turn off heat and let stand.

Note: Some add a hot, spicy, Portuguese sausage called linguica [lin-GWEE-suh]. Substitute Spanish chorizo [choh-REE-soh], hot Italian sausage, garlic sausage, or pepperoni if desired.

(Handouts 1- 7; Options 1-2)

Answer Sheet

Map It Answers	Match It Answers	Order It Answers
1. Nine	1. b-Luciano Barros	1-b
2. Praia	2. e-Rev. Elton Wood	2-b
3. Brava	3. g-Rev. Everett Howard	3-a
4. Mindelo, São Vicente	4. f-Rev. Jorge Barros	4-a
5. Mindelo, São Vicente	5. d-Rev. João Dias	5-a
6. Mindelo, São Vicente	6. a-Dr. Eugénio Duarte	6-a
7. Brava	7. h-Humberto Ferreira	7-b
8. Santiago	8. c-Rev. Earl Mosteller	8-a
9. Santa Luzia		
10.Boavista		

Cabo Verde Quiz Answers	
1. b. 9	7. a-Government official
2. a. Portuguese	8. a-A Portuguese hymnal
3. c. João Dias	9. a-A radio program
4. a. Professional photographer	10. b-First non-north American citizen to become General Superintendent
5. b. A man of prayer	
6. b. Elton Wood	

(Handout 1-Options 1-2)

Cabo Verde Map



(Handout 2-Option 1)






Cabo Verde Quiz



1. How many islands make up Cabo Verde?
a. 3 b. 9 c. 14
2. What is the official language of Cabo Verde?
a. Portuguese b. Spanish c. Creole
3. Who planted the first Church of the Nazarene on Cabo Verde?
a. Everett Howard b. Jorge Barros c. João Dias
4. What was Luciano Barros' work before God called him to preach to Cabo Verdeans?
a. Professional photographer b. Professor of agriculture c. Farmer
5. What was Luciano Barros known for in addition to his powerful preaching?
a. Exceptional church growth b. A man of prayer c. Financial management
6. Who was the first director of the Bible college in Cabo Verde?
a. Earl Mosteller b. Elton Wood c. Everett Howard
7. What did Humberto Ferreira work as before he became a Christian and the director of the first printing work in Cabo Verde?
a. Government official b. Photographer c. Secondary school teacher
8. What did Cabo Verde publish in Portuguese that made an important worship contribution?
a. A Portuguese hymnal b. A Portuguese Bible c. A Portuguese church growth manual
9. What surprising ministry developed while Jorge Barros was pastoring in Mindelo, S. Vicente?
a. A radio program b. A television program c. A touring choir ministry
10. How was Eugénio Duarte's election as general superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene a first?
a. He was the first multi-lingual general superintendent.
b. He was the first non-north American citizen to become general superintendent.
c. He was the first general superintendent raised as an orphan.

(Handout 3-Option 2)

Map It Quiz

Map It








1. How many islands make up the country of Cabo Verde? _____
2. What is the capital of Cabo Verde?  _____
3. On which island was the first church planted?  _____
4. Identify the island and city where the Nazarene Portuguese Publishing House was founded.  _____
5. Identify the island and city where the Seminary began.  _____
6. On which island and city did the Portuguese radio broadcast begin?  _____

7. On which island was General Superintendent Eugénio Duarte born?  _____
8. Which is the largest island? _____
9. Which island is unpopulated?  _____
10. Which island is closest to Africa? _____

Islands by Number

1. Santo Antao
2. São Vicente
3. Santa Luzia
4. São Nicolau
5. Sal
6. Boavista
7. Maio
8. Santiago
9. Fogo
10. Brava

Designated Icons

-  = Capital City
-  = Church
-  = Publishing
-  = Seminary
-  = Radio Broadcast
-  = Eugénio Duarte
-  = Unpopulated

(Handout 4-Option 2)

Cabo Verde Profiles



João José Dias

Cabo Verde: 1863-1964

João Dias was born and raised in Cabo Verde on the island of Brava. The son of a ship captain, João, accompanied his father in 1889 to the east coast of the United States. He found a Portuguese community in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Two years later, he visited a Protestant mission. There, João heard the gospel in a way his Roman Catholic upbringing had never communicated it. As he grew in his new life in Christ, he developed a passion for returning to his homeland and sharing the message of full surrender and holy living. He returned to Cabo Verde in 1901 with a couple of converts to help him as well as a little financial support from the Pentecostal Churches of America. When the PCA merged with the Church of the Nazarene in 1907, Cabo Verde became a mission endeavor for the Church of the Nazarene and kept its date of origin. The beginning for João was not easy. Unfortunately, he met more fists than smiles. His story reads like Paul's: imprisoned four times, stoned, beaten until unconscious. But still, he continued to share his testimony. Some responded and gave their lives to Christ. They were also persecuted, some brutally. By 1914, João had planted a church on the island of Brava with 60 members. It was a homeland work from the beginning.



Rev. and Mrs. Everett Howard

Cabo Verde: 1936-1951

By the 1930s, it was clear that Rev. Dias needed help to take the gospel to all nine inhabited islands. Everett and Garnet Howard were Nazarene missionaries sent in 1936. This was over 30 years after Rev. Dias started the work.

The Howards found more than just a pioneer work needing help. They found a foundation ready for expansion. As Rev. Howard assessed the work that Rev. Dias had built, Howard believed that the nine islands could become a district and set out to strategically plant work on key islands that could reach out to other islands. Before he left the field in 1951, there were congregations on all but three islands.

(Handout 4-Option 2)

Cabo Verde Profiles



Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Gay
Cabo Verde, 1942-1972

God orchestrated a providential intersection during this critical time. Clifford Gay was a faith missionary from Wales ministering in Angola. Once, when Rev. Gay traveled through Cabo Verde, he met Everett Howard. God used their meeting to call Clifford to help in Cabo Verde. Within the next 10 years, Clifford joined the Nazarene Church, was ordained, and became a Nazarene missionary. The Gays established a critical work in the capital city of Praia, pastored in Brava, and he was appointed as field superintendent in 1958. He died unexpectedly in 1972, serving 30 years in Cabo Verde.



Rev. Luciano Gomes de Barros
Cabo Verde 1909-1980

Luciano Gomes de Barros was a professional photographer on the island of Santiago. When Rev. Howard arrived in Praia, he asked to hold services in the studio of Luciano de Barros. Luciano and his son, Jorge, were among those attending a service when Rev. Howard asked people to accept Jesus as Savior and respond with a raised hand. Luciano raised his hand along with his son. That night, both prayed sincere prayers of repentance that changed the direction of their lives.

God called Luciano to preach. He sold his business and started Bible lessons with Rev. Howard. He became known as a man of prayer and carried a folded piece of leather so he could kneel anywhere and pray. In 1946 he moved to Fogo island to preach. During his first month, there were 60 conversions. Many tell stories about his ministry that they can explain no other way except as miracles. Cabo Verdeans lovingly call him, "the weeping Jeremiah."

(Handout 4-Option 2)

Cabo Verde Profiles



Rev. and Mrs. Elton Wood
Cabo Verde, 1953-1976

As 1950 dawned, Cabo Verdean leadership understood that if they wanted Cabo Verde to grow, they needed to train new pastors. In 1952 the leadership organized a seminary on the island of São Vicente in Mindelo, and Rev. Elton Wood came to be the first director. The Woods, along with Missionary Henck, carried the main teaching load. They graduated their first students in 1956 and sent five couples to start works on islands that did not have a Church of the Nazarene.

The Nazarene Seminary became influential in opening and establishing the Church of the Nazarene in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and other parts of the world.



Rev. and Mrs. Earl Mosteller
Cabo Verde, 1946-1958

In 1946 Rev. and Mrs. Earl Mosteller joined the missionary force in Cabo Verde, serving first in the capital city of Praia on Santiago island and establishing a new work in São Vicente. He organized a newsletter for Cabo Verde called the *Epistle*. In the 12 years he served throughout the islands, he pastored, restored buildings, oversaw new work construction, and served in several leadership positions. He was the catalyst and initial glue for two important developments: a Nazarene Portuguese publishing endeavor and a Nazarene Seminary for Portuguese-speaking students.



Humberto Ferreira
Cabo Verde, 1952-1969

Humberto Ferreira was a respected government official before he committed his life to Christ. He began sharing his skills with the Church of the Nazarene. When leadership established a printing center, they recruited Humberto as the first director. They printed gospel tracts, books, curriculum, and a Nazarene manual. In 1952 Ferreira published the first Nazarene Portuguese hymnal, *Graça e Devoção*, translating most of the 424 hymns himself.

What began as a printing press and a vision for Cabo Verde grew to be the largest publisher of Portuguese Holiness material in the world! At Ferreira's death in 1969, Missionary Elton Wood said, "We have lost that fertile mind which produced so many practical and productive ideas."

(Handout 4-Option 2)

Cabo Verde Profiles



Rev. Jorge Barros
Cabo Verde, 1957-1973

Jorge Barros grew up to be a pastor, just like his father, Luciano Barros. While pastoring the Mindelo Church of the Nazarene, a leading radio station asked to broadcast their church services. The broadcast became so popular that other radio stations offered to broadcast for free as well. The broadcast continued for 16 years.

When Nazarene denominational leaders heard about the regular Portuguese programming, they wanted to make it a denominational broadcast for a wider reach. In 1973, Jorge Barros became the first director of Portuguese literature and voice for A Hora Nazarena in Portuguese.



Eugénio Duarte
Cabo Verde, 1978-2009¹

When Eugénio Duarte was elected as the 37th general superintendent in 2009, he became the first non-North American citizen to hold the highest office in the Church of the Nazarene.

Born on the island of Brava in Cabo Verde, he became a Christian in Sunday school when he was 12. After high school graduation, he served as secretary to the island administrator. When Cabo Verde became an independent republic in 1975, the government asked Eugénio if he would go to Moscow and study electrical engineering, all expenses paid. Instead, Duarte answered God's invitation to study at the Seminaria Nazarena Cabo Verde. He pastored on the Santo Antão island before serving in other leadership responsibilities including seminary professor, district superintendent, strategy coordinator for the Portuguese-speaking Lusophone field, field strategy coordinator for Central Africa, and regional director for Africa.

¹ These dates represent Dr. Duarte's years of service in Cabo Verde.

(Handout 5-Option 2)

Match It

Write the letter of the person that connects to the biographical description in the blank for each statement using information from Cabo Verde Profiles.

_____ 1. A professional photographer turned pastor and prayer warrior.	a. Dr. Eugénio Duarte
_____ 2. First director of the Cabo Verde Bible College.	b. Rev. Luciano Barros
_____ 3. Missionaries who came over 30 years after the work was pioneered by a Cabo Verdean.	c. Rev. Earl Mosteller
_____ 4. Cabo Verdean who became a pastor, radio broadcaster, and director of Portuguese literature.	d. Rev. João Dias
_____ 5. First pioneer missionary who established the first church on Brava island.	e. Rev. Elton Wood
_____ 6. Cabo Verdean who became 37th general superintendent.	f. Rev. Jorge Barros
_____ 7. Government officer who became the first director of the Portuguese printing ministry.	g. Rev. Everett Howard
_____ 8. Missionary who coordinated efforts to begin the Seminary and printing work in Cabo Verde.	h. Humberto Ferriera

(Handout 6-Option 2)

Cabo Verde Timeline

- 1901** **João Dias** returns to Brava island, Cabo Verde to **plant a church** with support from the Association of the Pentecostal Churches of America.
- 1907** **The Association of Pentecostal Churches of America** merged with **Church of the Nazarene**, accepting pre-merger missionaries and origin dates.
- 1936** **Rev. and Mrs. Everett Howard** arrive as missionaries and eventually provide critical Bible training to produce new pastors.
- 1942** **Rev. Clifford Gay**, Welsh-born missionary, joined Rev. Howard in Cabo Verde. He served for 30 years in Cabo Verde before his unexpected death in 1972.
- 1942** **Luciano Barros** and son, **Jorge**, pray to receive Christ in a service **Rev. Howard** led.
- 1943** **Luciano Barros** answered a call to preach and began pastoring the **Brava** church.
- 1946** **Luciano Barros** moves to **Fogo island** to **pastor** and reports **60 conversions** in the first month.
- 1946** **Rev. and Mrs. Mosteller** arrive in Cabo Verde.
- 1951** The **Howards** leave Cabo Verde due to **Mrs. Howard's** medical needs.
- 1952** **Rev. and Mrs. Elton Wood** arrive in Cabo Verde and **Rev. Howard** became the first director of the **Nazarene Seminary** of Cabo Verde.
- 1952** **Humberto Ferreira** became the director for the **Nazarene Publishing House** in Cabo Verde.
- 1952** Published *Graca e Devocao*, the **first Portuguese Nazarene Hymnal**.
- 1953** **First classes** offered at the **Seminary in Mindelo, São Vicente**.
- 1956** **Cabo Verde Nazarene Seminary** graduated the first class of five couples.
- 1957** **Jorge Barros** began pastoring the **Mindelo Church of the Nazarene** on São Vicente island.
- 1972** **Rev. Clifford Gay** dies unexpectedly while serving in Cabo Verde.

- 1973** Rev. **Jorge Barros** became director of Portuguese literature for the Church of the Nazarene and moved to Kansas City, Missouri, USA.
- 1975** Cabo Verde won independence from Portugal and became the **Republic of Cabo Verde**.
- 1980** Rev. **Luciano Barros** retired with a legacy as “the Weeping Jeremiah.”
- 1981** **Eugénio Duarte** was ordained in the Church of the Nazarene while pastoring on the island of **Santo Antão**.
- 2003** **Eugénio Duarte** became **field strategy coordinator** for **Central Africa**.
- 2005** **Eugénio Duarte** became **regional director** for **Africa**.
- 2009** **Dr. Eugénio Duarte** elected as the **37th general superintendent** of the Church of the Nazarene.
- 2018** Cabo Verde divides into two districts: **Cabo Verde Norte** and **Cabo Verde Sul**.
- 2019** Cabo Verde Norte elects **Leniza Soares** as district superintendent.

(Handout 7-Option 2)

Order It

For each of the paired events, circle the letter in front of the event that came first by referring to the Cabo Verde Timeline.

1. a. The Howards arrive in Cabo Verde.
 b. João Dias plants a church in Brava.

2. a. Rev Clifford Gay joined the Church of the Nazarene and went to Cabo Verde as a missionary.
 b. The Association of Pentecostal Churches of America merged with the Church of the Nazarene.

3. a. Luciano Barros became a Christian at a service where Rev. Howard preached.
 b. Jorge Barros pastored where the service was broadcast.

4. a. The Mostellers arrive as missionaries to Cabo Verde.
 b. The Elton Woods arrive as missionaries to Cabo Verde.

5. a. First classes offered at a newly organized seminary.
 b. Cabo Verdean Eugénio Duarte is elected as General Superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene

6. a. A Nazarene hymnal in Portuguese is published in Cabo Verde.
 b. The first class of graduates from the Nazarene Seminary in Cabo Verde.

7. a. Cabo Verde divides into two districts.
 b. Cabo Verde wins independence from Portugal.

8. a. Cabo Verde Norte District elects Leniza Soares as district superintendent.
 b. Luciano Barros retires with the legacy as “the weeping Jeremiah.”

Handout 8

Cabo Verde Pictures of Churches of the Nazarene

Use for bulletin board or refreshment table.



Santa Maria Church of the Nazarene



Praia Church of the Nazarene



São Felipe Church of the Nazarene



Cabo Verde Flag

10

Prompts to Prayer—Mobilized to Pray

by John Haines

LESSON PURPOSE

This lesson looks at the history and development of the Prayer Mobilization Line (PML), and how it plays a part in the prayer life of the Church of the Nazarene around the world. But, PML is not our only prompt to prayer.

SCRIPTURE:

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27, NIV)

FAST FACTS

- Prayer is one of the Five Areas of Impact that has been the foundational focus of NMI since its beginnings.
- PML, as a weekly prayer piece, may be subscribed to at nazarene.org/nmi/prayer
- Did you know that prayer is faster than the fastest plane? You do not need to board a plane or train or take a car or ship to get your prayers to their destination. Of course, God is the One to whom we pray, but by His Holy Spirit, He brings your prayer—however simple or comprehensive—to bear upon the situation for which you pray or to bring hope, comfort, and encouragement to the one for whom you pray. Just pray!
- Did you know that anyone can pray at anyplace, at any time? It need not be rehearsed or written (though there is nothing wrong with writing a prayer). You do not need to be in any particular physical position, but your spiritual posture needs to be right: humble, obedient, faithful, and sincere.
- Prayer is a bridge between ourselves and God, and between ourselves and others (some we know, some we don't), and helps us and others to know that we are not alone in any situation or set of circumstances.

LESSON INFORMATION

History of Prayer Mobilization Line

In 1981, the NMI (then NWMS) Prayer Mobilization Line (PML) was introduced. This special telephone line at the General NMI Office served as a link between the missionaries on the field and the local church constituents. At that time, Nazarenes called (816) 444-PRAY to utilize this vital intercessory tool.

Missions praises and requests were submitted to the NMI office, and the person who coordinated PML edited them, then recorded them on an answering machine twice a week (Wednesdays and Fridays). Usually, a missions leader would call the PML and write down the praises and requests and share them with the local church. The twice-weekly schedule required time by NMI employees who also had other tasks, it was determined to go to one day a week. Since most churches used the prayer requests and praises on Wednesday evenings, the Friday edition was eliminated.

As email became popular, some Nazarenes asked for the PML to be provided in that format. This simplified the process, as missions leaders did not have to spend time on the phone making notes, rewinding the recording until they had the information down correctly, then typing and copying them for the church. Due to lack of technology in some areas, the PML continued to be recorded for those wishing to call. When Nazarene Headquarters moved from Kansas City, Missouri, USA, and became the Global Ministries Center in Lenexa, Kansas, the "PRAY" telephone number had to be changed.

When NMI developed a website, a page was devoted to PML, so missions leaders could also access PML via the site. In 2013, NMI dispensed with the dedicated phone line, as there were few calls weekly, and the telephone line was an unnecessary expense. Most people had become familiar with technology and had subscribed to the Prayer Mobilization Line via email or accessed it on the site.

In 2011, NMI created a PML Facebook page that allowed the church to gather online to pray for each other. Urgent needs occasionally occurred between the days when PML was published, and the Facebook page allowed requests to be posted, and the church could pray immediately. Unfortunately, praises and requests from the field dwindled over time, so the Facebook page was discontinued in 2018.

Translation of PML into Spanish began in 2012, and it was translated into Portuguese beginning

in 2015. Nazarenes around the world may view recent editions in all three languages, and subscribe to the Prayer Mobilization Line in any of those three languages. As of late June 2020, the subscribers receiving PML each week numbered nearly 8,000 in English, Portuguese, and Spanish. Other individuals and missions leaders are invited to subscribe.

In 2019, PML underwent another format change, focusing on countries where the Church of the Nazarene is present, with praises and requests from those contexts. PML recipients learn of up-to-date stats for world areas, as well as cultural background and ministerial needs in those world areas. It is hoped that this new approach will inform, inspire, and encourage the praying church, sharing the burden of missions. This allows Nazarenes to help lift the load of those who are serving Christ faithfully. Although NMI cannot always share names or details of ministries, God knows the situations, bringing grace and transformation.

A few months into 2020, COVID-19 swept across the globe. The Board of General Superintendents, recognizing the thousands of intercessors who subscribe to PML around the world, requested that they be allowed to provide a page of ministry- and region-focused requests until the pandemic slows or ends.

How PML Is Used

PML is utilized in individual, small-group, and congregational settings. Individuals intercede for those items mentioned in their private prayer times. Missions leaders provide praises and requests for newsletters, bulletins, Sunday school classes, worship, and missions services. Some of the benefits are that requests and praises help people understand the victories and challenges of the global Church of the Nazarene. PML also provides up-to-date information about missionaries, ministries, and world areas in which the Church of the Nazarene has a presence. It also updates the church on recent missionary appointments and deployments to the mission field.

Praying "in the dark"

How often have you been awakened in the night with a strong sense of urgency to pray? Sometimes, we're prompted to pray for a particular person (a missionary, maybe) that we know, but

often we are not really sure why we are praying or for whom or what we are praying. But, we rouse ourselves to obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit...to pray faithfully!

Several times in my missionary career, I knew that God's people were praying. I was in a precarious, if not dangerous situation, and did not know what to say or do. Suddenly, a sense of peace, or boldness, came over me, and words came that helped, or an agent of God's appointing came to my aid. You did not know, I did not know, but the Spirit had clearly intervened through prayer.

One unforgettable memory:

I had been in a country, I cannot mention here, for a little over a week to check on the status of our work there. The atmosphere was heavy with discontent in the country, and it was becoming clearer by the day that I needed to exit. I changed my plans and went to the airport for my flight back to Europe. Everything and everyone was in chaos.

The airport was crowded with people, and I was the only one who stood a foot taller with whiter hair than any others among the crowd. I got to the security checkpoint, placed my luggage on the x-ray conveyor, and proceeded through the scanner. I was immediately stopped by an officer: a colonel, who happened to be the chief of security. He asked me to open my luggage and stand back. I obliged and watched him rip through my neatly-packed bag. He seemed to go straight for my Bible, which he must have noticed in the x-ray imaging. It was in a zip-lock bag (I always traveled with my Bible in this way to protect it from moisture in case my luggage was left sitting in a wet loading zone). He ripped it out of the bag, tearing it badly along the spine, and shaking it in my face. "What is this, and why do you have it?" Immediately, words I would not have naturally thought of came to me: "Well, that is my holy book. I travel everywhere with my holy book. I brought it in with me, and I'm taking it out with me." Then, I asked a series of questions of this colonel, trying to establish a defusing dialogue. "As head of security here, I assume you are a devout Muslim?" His reply: "Yes!" Then, I said, "If so, I assume you carry your holy book with you wherever you go, and read it, faithfully?" His reply, though less emphatic, "Yes."

Then—I don't know what possessed me, I said—"Well, if you were in my country, and a security officer, regardless of his rank, were to deface your holy book the way you have damaged mine tonight, there would be an international incident, wouldn't there? Surely you would not want that!" He shook his head and said briskly, "Just go, just

go!" He threw my Bible back into my suitcase, and I was allowed to proceed to my flight. About 30 minutes into that flight, the pilot came on the speakers to announce that we were the last flight allowed to leave. There had just been a military coup, and the chaos I had sensed all week was evidently leading to this event that would change this country's leadership and its future.

I made it home safely. Now, I made it a practice not to tell my mother, who I thought would worry, when I was going to a potentially dangerous place. I'd wait until I got home and then let her know where I'd been if it came up in a phone conversation. But, after this trip, I got a call from her. "Where have you been? What happened? I, and others here, have been praying for you with urgency all week. All I could think to do was pray, "Lord, you know where John is. Protect him, and give him the words he needs when he needs them. Keep him safe, and assure him of your presence and our prayers." God did. No one knew who wasn't supposed to know where I was or what I was doing. But, God knew, and He enlisted His people to be prayerful for me. They joined Him in my deliverance that night. They did not need to know what the circumstances were. They only needed to be sensitive and faithful in prayer. Anything could have happened in the chaos of that night, but thank the Lord, He gave me the right words, at the right time, and an escort out of danger, as only He can do. And, just maybe, He touched the heart of that colonel in our brief encounter.

How is Prayer Guided?

- It is always good when prayer is "informed"... when you have enough information to pray intelligently for "whatever"....
 - o PML seeks to provide guidance for informed prayer:
 - o Cultural information one might not have been aware of
 - o Contextual challenges that our missionaries and churches are facing
 - o Contextualized approaches being used to further the message of Christ
 - o Praises from the front lines of missions, demonstrating God's activities and grace to meet the challenges and empower the approaches
 - o Prayer requests coming directly from the fields of service globally
 - o Other information, like updates on missionary deployments and bereavements, within the missions family

- It is not always possible to know details. In those cases, how is prayer guided?
 - o The Holy Spirit, with whom sometimes all we can do is groan and faithfully stay on station to lift the need as prompted by Him.
 - o Often, NMI is asked for more information than we are at liberty to give for security reasons, or for privacy, or because we cannot know more at the present time.
 - o Often missionaries report that they felt the prayers of God's people supporting and lifting them to the throne of grace on a given day, at a particular time of stress, danger, or uncertainty. It was a moment when eternity and the present touched, and a life was saved, a situation beyond human capacity was resolved, or a long-standing need was met. These were not "informed" prayers rising...they were "prompted" prayers rising to God, and they made all the difference.
- To boost your "informed" prayer life for missions and missionaries, subscribe to PML at nazarene.org/nmi/prayer.
- To boost your "prompted" prayer life, be intentionally present in the moment, to respond instantly to the "still, small voice of God" that is asking you to join Him for the sake of others in need, at moments only He can know about, in ways that only He can act.

Here are a few examples...stories from missionaries:

1. MB (name withheld for security reasons)...a story of assurance that carries one through the day:

"I KNOW I could not be doing what I am doing without the covering of His people's prayers for me. I work in a location where teaching faith is forbidden and where monitoring of behavior is intense. My classroom has cameras, the computer screen there is mirrored in the security office, and a student monitor has the duty to report any teacher issues. My apartment building entrance is also under camera monitoring and recording, yet I have student groups in my home regularly. Our Father is at work and has allowed me to shower love on 'my kids.' Quite a number have come to faith. Even when a security guard stood by my table for five minutes, as I taught a student English from John's Good News, I have not been stopped. I can only have peace and confidence to keep working in those circumstances because of those holding me up in prayer."

2. Jill Riggins—a story of waiting and trusting:

A story of the nail-biting "hurry up and wait" that so many missionaries experience in regard to official paperwork and visas, etc., to make travel possible on the field and for home assignments. Waiting for months for the passport of their four-month-old daughter, and trying to prepare to leave for home assignment, the Riggins did everything they were instructed to do, and the window for meeting their scheduled departure was closing fast. They called the church to pray, and it prayed. God provided the right connections and a sympathetic immigration officer in the airport. What seemed to be a pathway through the labyrinth marked by God's footsteps, the family made their flight and made it home for home assignment. In Jill's words, *"We knew in that moment that God was honoring our steps of faith. He was giving us a story to share with our children, a journey of faith for them to walk along with us, and as our family walked through immigration that day, our faith grew by leaps and bounds. We also knew that He was honoring the faith of many around the world who had prayed for us that day. I write this here to share it with those who haven't had the opportunity to hear our story in person but may have played a part in it along the way, but also to remind ourselves of what God has done for us. He paved the way smooth. Not only did we not have to pay a bribe, but we also got a discount at Immigration! We also didn't have to talk our way through; I answered every question straight-forward and honestly and was never questioned further. Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ!"*

3. Sheryl Uyeda—a story of a God's re-kindling grace:

For eight months, Sheryl was the lone surgeon at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in Papua New Guinea. Due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, others could not come into the country. In the extreme overload of the work, Sheryl came to a breaking point physically, emotionally, and mentally. She describes her situation as "crashing hard, leaving a pile of burning wreckage and plumes of smoke." She was burned out! But, her pastor and prayer partners were praying, not knowing the situation fully. They say that God prompted them to pray for her by name at very specific times. In Sheryl's words: *"When the pastor reached out that first day, I thought, 'God, you know just what I need when I need it.' When that second friend reached out a few days later, I thought, 'People are thinking of me during this difficult season. Thank you, Lord.' When I received that last message, I wept. In pure amazement, I thought, 'Truly, Holy Spirit, you are moving and working in ways I cannot see. I do not deserve this*

outpouring of your grace, that you should stir so many people to intercede on my behalf in my most desperate hour. Thank you, sweet Shepherd for caring for your wounded sheep.' The Holy Spirit is moving in hearts, and I am so thankful for each person who listens and responds."

4. Ashley Hoffner—a story of a young missionary trying to get to her field assignment:

Ashley was finishing up her first home assignment but was still behind in what she needed to support her departure and time on the field. Doubtful that she could manage what God had called her to, and unworthy of that calling, she wept and prayed for a deeper faith to follow God's will. Early the next morning, she woke to find a message from a lady in her home church, with a link to a sermon that included a story from a church plant she had helped to start in another country before this home assignment. *"My church friend didn't know what I was going through, she didn't ask, but simply said she was praying for me. And that was all I needed. God knows. God listens. And, God answers. He is always enough!"*

5. Duane and Linda Srader¹—a story of God's healing:

While serving in Cabo Verde (previously known as the Cape Verde Islands), Linda Srader fell ill, very ill. Doctors suggested that she return to the United States immediately, which meant a flight alone, from Cabo Verde to New York to Houston, Texas, USA. A telegram preceded her arrival in Houston, asking the churches there to pray for this missionary's unknown illness. She was admitted to a hospital that specialized in tropical diseases. Every day, local pastors and people would come to pray over her. Then Duane and the children finally arrived to begin a home assignment, Duane says: *"I will never forget the day the doctor came into the examination room and said: 'After many, many exams we still do not know what she had, but she is healed!' He even said, 'We even gave her a psychological test, and she is better than most of us.' God had healed her in response to the prayers of the faithful."*

6. Mary Mercer—a story of God's protection and care:

Tim and Mary Mercer were attending their first mission council meeting, several hours from their new home in South Korea, just two months after their arrival there. Two days into the meetings, it became clear that hotel staff were very distressed about something that had happened; and learned

that the president of the country had been assassinated, causing panic and the imposition of martial law. How would they get home? The council meetings adjourned early, and everyone managed to get home safely and without incident. Mary writes: *"A few weeks later, we received a letter from prayer warriors in the church we had most recently pastored before leaving for South Korea. They reported that on that weekend of our council meeting, not knowing why, they had obeyed God, urging them to pray fervently for us. God's faithful care of us that weekend was evidence of His perfect timing."*

7. Jon and Shirley Fischer—a story of God's care for W&W teams:

Jon and Shirley Fisher were hosting and leading a Work & Witness team in Ecuador. They had gone up into the mountains for an evening service—a special treat. It began to rain heavily, and by the time the team got into the vans to head back down the mountain, the roads were already deteriorating. Everyone was quiet, nervous, praying, and hoping they'd make it back to the district center without incident. The long and anxious journey was marked by moments of sliding into the side of the mountain, which was better than sliding off the mountain (there were no guardrails), conditions that made it hard for Jon and Shirley to see each other's van in the rain, no cell phone coverage for communication, and the whispered songs of faith coming from the back of the van by a lady who wasn't sure she remembered the hymns, but sang them anyway. The Fischer's recall: *"Praise the Lord, we made it back to town! God had called on many people to pray as He guided us in the 15-passenger vans on the muddy, slick roads, on a Sunday night in the dark mountains of Ecuador. Praise the Lord, God's faithful people answered the call."*

8. Chuck and Carla Sunberg—a story of a journey home, by God's grace:

When Chuck and Carla Sunberg were in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), based in Moscow, their travels took them to some pretty remote places in Russia and Ukraine. They tell the story of the night before they were to leave on home assignment, trying to get back to Moscow, having just concluded a district advisory board meeting in Ulyanovsk. Their journey back to Moscow in the dark night was a "nightmare," with vehicles that broke down and were barely roadworthy, passing through various police

¹ Duane and Linda Srader returned to the United States after 29 years of missionary service in Cabo Verde, Portugal, and Italy, to become district superintendent in the Houston, San Antonio, and the merged South Texas districts, but have maintained their missionary passion, often taking teams of various places around the world where they served in missions.

checkpoints, and finally being left by the side of the road to find some way home to finish packing and fly out for home assignment in the United States. It is like so many missionary stories: you had to be there to imagine how complex the simplest of things could get. Carla recalls: *“Just a few days after this, we were in the United States when a dear friend told us how burdened they had been for us just a few days before. They had been praying and interceding—not knowing what our need may have been. How do you describe the need—except that we needed God to keep us safe that night?”*

NOTE: Not all of these stories have the same degree of urgency in our thinking, but for the missionary going through the trial, whatever it is, the prayers of God’s people lift the burden and give a brighter perspective on the reality of the situation, and God’s involvement in it. No need is insignificant to the one who is trying to find their way through to God’s glory.

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- To boost your “prompted” prayer life, be intentionally present in the moment, to respond instantly to the “still, small voice of God” that is asking you to join Him for the sake of others in need, at moments only He can know about, in ways that only He can act.

Nazarene World Week of Prayer

Did you know that every year, during the week that includes the first Friday of March, NMI produces a Nazarene World Week of Prayer (NWWP) Guide, full of prayer requests and praises from every field and world region?

- The week is organized to guide the praying church with principles gathered from Scripture and current missions needs, to help us pray intentionally every day for missions.
- The week is organized to give equitable time and emphasis to Nazarene missions everywhere.
- In 2021, the NWWP will begin on Sunday, 28 February, and go through Saturday, 6 March. You may see previous NWWP Guides on our NMI website, under Prayer. Go to nazarene.org/nmi/prayer to download the 2020 NWWP Guide for an example. By the way, the NWWP Guide can help you pray throughout the year, not just during the one week for which it is produced.

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Here are three presentation options that can be used in a traditional church setting, at home, or using video conferencing.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been important to provide activity options that can be done in the context of small-group settings or online gatherings. Whichever you use, be intentional about engaging all ages in the cause of missions, nurturing a “spirit of missions” in the local church.

Option 1—for a small group setting

Prepare

- Have Bibles ready or print out the attached to read Romans 8:26-27.
- Have Handout 1 ready for each member of the group, providing space on the page for a “diary entry” of God’s answered prayer in one’s life.

Present

- Have participants ready to read the short stories of how God intervened in the lives of missionaries because His people were praying.
- Using Handout 1, ask participants to think about a time when God, the Holy Spirit, prompted them to pray, not knowing why, or maybe even for whom. Give time for them to recall and write about that as a “diary entry” and then allow them to share their stories in small groups.
- Close the session with prayer, that God would keep His people sensitive to His prompting, faithful to His invitation to join Him in His activities in the world to help His servants in need whatever the time or situation.

Option 2—for groups that include all ages

Prepare

- Divide the lesson information that includes the short stories from various missionaries, asking someone in your group to read one story each to the group. Be sure to include children and youth in this activity.

Present

- You may wonder if God really answers prayer. You may think, He may not answer mine. You may think there are others praying, so that is enough. But, as you go through the stories in the lesson:
 - o Have participants write down what they think are the results of each story about the people of God responding to the Holy Spirit’s prompts to prayer.
 - o Then have them write what personal lesson(s) they learned through these stories.
 - o Ask how and if this changes their perspective on prayer and our need to be sensitive and faithful to pray at a moment’s notice when God calls a missionary in a difficult situation to our attention. He is enlisting us to join Him in His action in that place or in the life of that missionary.

Option 3—an activity to inspire everyone to participate in an intentional prayer life for missions

Prepare

- Prepare a copy of Handout 3, planning how you, as an individual, a family, or a church might be more involved in the 2021 Nazarene World Week of Prayer. This is an “idea generator,” so open the discussion for all to share their thoughts. Choose a scribe to take notes while the discussion is going on, and then begin to put together a plan that can work for your local congregation.
- Download a copy of the 2020 Nazarene World Week of Prayer Guide, and use it as an example of what will come out in 2021. Notice the praises and prayer requests from all around the world. Possibly use some of the general prayers, incorporating them into the lesson, and begin to imagine

how you can and will utilize the NWWP Guide for 2021 in your personal, family, and church setting.

- Guide your group to go onto the NMI website and subscribe to Prayer Mobilization Line (PML) to receive weekly updates on the work of missions around the world, to learn something new about the countries where the Church of the Nazarene is present and ministering, and to pray with those who have submitted praises and prayer requests that are critical to the moment. Print out a copy of the most recent PML and join together in prayer for the focus country or countries. Remember, everyone everywhere is impacted by COVID-19, and PML is seeking to keep the praying church up to date on how the local churches around the world are responding with grace, compassion, and practical help in and among their neighborhoods.

Present

- As you go through the lesson material and read the stories of those who report God's intervention in their lives during their missions service, have participants think of prayer in this order:
 1. Praise: always give God praise first. We, too often, begin our prayers with a list of the things we feel we need God to help us with or give us. But, remember, God is always giving. He is always helping, guiding, protecting, and caring.
 2. Prayer Requests: allow your prayer requests to flow out of a heart filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. Focus your prayer requests on the needs of others first, and then on your own needs.
 3. Utilize the NWWP and PML to guide your group in small group prayers during the lesson.

ACT ON IT (practical ideas for personal involvement)

- Involve every member of your group, regardless of age, in prayer for missions and for missionaries. Your prayers can make all the difference in critical moments about which you know nothing.
- Pray for your Links missionary every day, either in the morning before you get up to start your day or in the evening, before you go to bed. Ask the Lord how He would have you support them, and other missionaries, in regular prayer.
- You may find it useful to develop some prayer “triggers” that prompt you to pray on specific days of the week or month. “Triggers” can be as simple as praying for your Links missionaries at “lunchtime,” or remembering to pray for particular countries whose spelling starts with the same letter as a day of the week.
- Use PML and the Nazarene World Week of Prayer to prompt you to pray each week and throughout the year. The NWWP is done so that it may be used throughout the year to pray for and give praise for items specifically suggested by missionaries and regional leaders around the world.

RESOURCES (“handy helps” for the leader)

- **Websites**

- o Go to nazarene.org/nmi/prayer to download the 2020 NWWP Guide, and subscribe to PML. Recent, archived PMLs are available on this page as well.

- **Articles/blogs**

- o While we do not list individual missionary's blog here, try to follow your Links missionaries' blogs and articles to see how God is constantly answering your prayers for them, and to see how He might be prompting you to pray more regularly for them and the challenges they face serving Him far from home.
- o The stories shared by Jill Riggins and Carla Sunberg are interesting, but quite long. You may wish to download the full story from Dropbox. Follow this link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ak9qhgutm754uef/AACJokrZURGyG-jFQG_C4Zna?dl=0

RECIPES

For the purposes of this lesson, **any recipe will do**. But, as you share the snack or meal together:

- Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for God's provision for our missionaries, and
- Pray a prayer of covenant to remember them each time you break bread in Communion, or before a daily meal.
- Pray for them by name, especially your Links missionaries, and ask the Lord to be all they need Him to be right then.
- Write to them and let them know you are praying for their health, their safety, their family, and their ministry.

This should be a feast of faithfulness!

(Handout 1) A Diary Entry

Scripture Reading:

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27, NIV)

Write a "Diary Entry" here of a time when God prompted you to pray for someone or some situation...a time when you did not have all the information to pray specifically...but you prayed, and later discovered how the Lord intervened at the very time in the life and situation of a missionary or someone else who needed God's deliverance, peace, presence, or protection.

How did it make you feel that God prompted you to pray? How did it change your prayer habits, your sensitivity to pray at a moment's notice, for a person or situation, having little or no information to guide your prayer? Give thanks that the Holy Spirit prompts the people of God to pray just when prayer is needed most. Continue to be faithful in this. You may never know the full story, or even how your prayers changed the moment, but remember, your prayers count—every time!

(Handout 2)

God Prompts to Prayer and Answers Prayer

Story	Results	Personal Lesson Learned
<p>John's story <i>A story of how God gives wisdom, strength, and calm courage at a critical moment, in a dangerous place. A tattered Bible is a constant reminder of God's presence and power, and deliverance.</i></p>		
<p>MB's story (NOTE: MB cannot here be named for security reasons.) <i>A story of how God helps a teacher in a sensitive setting to bring her students the good news and show them the love of Christ.</i></p>		
<p>Riggins's story <i>A story of how God helped a missionary family negotiate the labyrinth of visas, waiting, rising costs of travel, and a happy ending that taught the family a lesson in God's provision.</i></p>		
<p>Sheryl Uyeda's story <i>A story of lone surgeon working in a hospital, who came to a point of exhaustion, and discovered the strength and encouragement of the prayers of God's people.</i></p>		
<p>Ashley Hoffner's story <i>A story of God's provision through His church to help a young missionary get to the field; the power of prayer to settle her doubts, and the joy of knowing that God is always "enough."</i></p>		
<p>Srader's story <i>A story of a missionary family's health crises, and God's care and provision in a time of critical need, travel, and the "unknown" nature of the tropical disease that threatened life itself—and the miraculous healing that came through prayer.</i></p>		
<p>Mercer's story <i>A story of God's protection of a group of missionaries in the face of national chaos, following the assassination of the country's president, and how God's people prayed from afar, not knowing why.</i></p>		
<p>Fischer's story <i>A story of a Work & Witness trip that faced a treacherous journey on steep mountainous roads, in heavy rains, mudslides, and the prayers that got them through.</i></p>		
<p>Sunberg's story <i>A story, like a series of comic errors and challenges, that was anything but funny; a dark night's journey back to Moscow, to finish packing for home assignment, and all that transpired, but with God's people praying "in the dark" for God to protect and keep them...and He did!</i></p>		

(Handout 3)

NAZARENE WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER

How Our Church Might Participate More Intentionally

Nazarene World Week of Prayer happens every year on the week that includes the first Friday of March, so NWWP for 2021 will begin on Sunday, 28 February and end on Saturday, 6 March. Each day will focus on something a little different and include praises and prayer requests from all regions and fields of the global Church of the Nazarene. How will you, both personally and corporately, engage in prayer during this special week of intervention for the people of God around the world?

Use the space below to begin to map out a plan for effective prayer? Remember, prayer changes the situations for which we pray, but it also changes us, the one(s) who pray!

Nazarene World Week of Prayer 28 February—6 March, 2020

Sunday, 28 February	
Monday, 1 March	
Tuesday, 2 March	
Wednesday, 3 March	
Thursday, 4 March	
Friday, 5 March	
Saturday, 6 March	NOTE: <i>The Saturday of each NWWP is a “covenant to pray” for the coming year.</i>

LESSON PURPOSE

It seems we are never far from a crisis in these days. COVID-19 has taught us that crises can double-back and hit us again and again. Of course, the weather teaches us the same thing in terms of tragic storms that hit the same places on a regular basis. Other disasters, like the explosion in Lebanon in August 2020, show us that crises can build one on another if we do not deal with the problem when it first manifests itself as a problem. This lesson looks at how we might view times of crisis and our response to them. Do we tend to look inward or outward in times of crisis? Do we hoard, or do we share?

SCRIPTURE:

Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for humankind. Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders. (Psalm 107:23-32, NIV)

FAST FACTS

- COVID-19: There is literally no part of the church globally that has not felt the hardships brought on by the pandemic. Every country where the Church of the Nazarene serves has been hit with the virus and all that accompanied it. The church has responded in its need to the needs of others. That is what Christ calls us to do.
- India flooding: For many years, flooding occurs in India and the surrounding countries of South Asia, often catastrophic and deadly, leaving hundreds of thousands without food security, clean water, and shelter. The church, often through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM), provides resources to stay off the worst of the crises by providing what it has in its hands, because Nazarenes everywhere, who are not faced with the flooding, give to those who are.
- Beirut, Lebanon explosion: On 4 August 2020, an explosion of stored chemicals near the main port in Beirut exploded and brought that beautiful city and that exhausted country to its knees. Nearly 200 people lost their lives, and more than 6,500 were injured in the blast. Over 300,000 were left homeless, and the cost: between US\$10-15 billion. It caused political upheaval and the resignation of government; it brought people on to the streets to protest incompetence and disappointment, while at the same time digging through the rubble in search of survivors. It brought global focus on a people who have given out of their own need to support refugees living within their borders. In Lebanon, the Church of the Nazarene educates, feeds, clothes, shelters, and loves those who have crossed their borders for refuge, who have lost everything in their home countries. Now, Lebanon—again—seems to have lost everything, and yet, giving is what is in the hearts of its people.

LESSON INFORMATION

John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, once remarked that “when written in Chinese, the word ‘crisis’ is composed of two characters. One represents danger, and the other represents opportunity.” Every crisis is, at the same time, an opportunity. This may be a misconception. The first character, *wēi*, does mean “dangerous” or “precarious,” but the second character, *jī*, does not mean “opportunity” in isolation, but something more like a “change point.” That is certainly where we find ourselves in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic—in a crisis that has brought us to a change point. Yes, it is a dangerous and precarious place to be right now, but it is also a time of opportunity—a moment to consider the changes that need to be made, to decide what should be kept, and what should be allowed to fall away. What really matters now? and for the days ahead?

In the Greek, the root of the word “crisis” can mean “to sift”...to shake out the excesses and leave only what is important. We are forced to hold on to what matters most and let other things fall away.

What does this passage tell us about the crises we face from time to time?

1. They often come when we are in the midst of the challenges of our day-to-day lives.
2. Our expertise often proves ineffective in quelling the storms that are tossing us up and down.
3. There is only One to whom we can turn to bring us out of our distress.
4. We must not forget to give thanks to God for His help. It has often been noted that we, who have been spared one disaster or another, tend to forget that. When we see others facing disaster, our forgetfulness causes us to pity them from afar. But, giving in times of crises is a way in which we say, “We remember how close we came to calamity; we remember what that felt like, how alone we feared we were. Now is our opportunity to say, through our giving, to others: ‘You are not alone, and we know what you’re feeling right now.’”
5. We must learn to share our faith and our gratitude as the whole people of God. When crises pass, and the clean-up of all the debris of recent days, weeks, or months is drawing to a close, it is right that we should, as the people of God, pause and give thanks to God for His help, for the opportunity to be at least a part of the answer in

whatever way we could, and together celebrate the God who brings us into safe haven.

The thing about economic hard times is that they tend to fall on many at the same time. During this COVID-19 pandemic, it has become clear that everyone, everywhere, has been hit with loss and the fear that accompanies loss. It’s odd that when people don’t have money, the prices of things needed go up, and the pinch of the financial crisis is felt more than ever. When the church is facing financial crisis, it is often because the people, who are the church, are facing a financial crisis. Some decisions have to be made. What will I (we) use our limited money for? Well, people need to eat, to maintain a place of shelter and safety, to clothe themselves, and endure the moment—in hopes it won’t be a long moment.

I can recall times when my home church was going through very difficult financial times. Many people in the area (and thus, the church) had lost their jobs in layoffs from companies that were the backbone of the community. Others faced reduced wages to avoid a layoff. The church called for faithfulness in the face of financial crisis. My mother was NMI president for many years and secretary of the church board for even more. She was a single mother, trying to provide for her two teenagers. Her resolve in every financial crisis the church went through, which coincided with every financial crisis she (we) went through, was to give even more to ensure the church could carry on. The common question at such times: “*What can we do without in order to help others?*” I believe the Lord smiles on such commitment and delights to hear His children asking those kinds of questions. Giving in times of crisis is critical to the giver and to the church to which we give. Ministries don’t stop in the midst of crises. They grow, both in terms of the need for them, and the breadth of their expression to those in need.

Of course, this story can be repeated in most Nazarene churches, and one does not need to dig too deep to find evidence of faithfulness in giving in the midst of unimaginable crises. Everyone can give. The question is, what tugs at the heart of each generation to give? How are crises viewed through the lenses of different generations? And, what does “giving” look like?

In the 18th century, John Wesley preached a sermon "The Use of Money"¹ and focused on three simple principles: "Make all you can, Save all you can, and Give all you can!" This is how he viewed his Christian stewardship. It speaks of responsible earning, selfless saving, and generosity in sharing as God gives opportunity, for the sake of others. It is a timely reminder to us all in these days.

Back in the days of the Great Depression, J. G. Morrison² would repeatedly challenge Nazarenes with the phrase: "Can't you do just a little bit more?" In times of crisis, we need to hear that phrase whispered in our hearts, and remain faithful for sake missions, now and always.

When natural disasters hit, make Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) your first stop in searching for ways to help others. Give to the projects they have identified as those where we can do the most good, as Nazarenes. Let the "sifting" of crises cause you to look at what is "falling away"—not really necessary, and what is left behind, out of which new priorities are made, and give to and through the church, so that the mission of God's love and mercy, healing and grace, may continue to reach around the world.

Of course, many crises are not natural disasters, but the church is always on the front lines of meeting them. They may be economic, social, or a combined set of circumstances that we seek to respond to through the mission of the church. Faithfulness in WEF giving makes it possible for the church to keep missionaries on the front lines in times of crisis, and enables the church to respond immediately to whatever the crisis may be with the present and active love of God through His people.

Some simple steps to take when a crisis arises:

1. Whatever the crisis, listen to or read the details, and then take a look at your own life situation. Whisper a prayer that God would awaken you to your own reality. What, in your home or career and relationships, is a reminder that you have been spared this particular crisis at this particular time? If you have been spared, there is a reason. How can you participate and respond to the crisis occurring somewhere else, often affecting people you do not know (may never

know), with a caring and grateful heart?

2. If the crisis is one that has claimed property or devastated an area with unimaginable destruction, take a look around your own home and situation. Pray that the Lord will help you to take inventory of what you have that you do not need. How can you change your buying patterns so that you are not just acquiring more and more, but are making yourself ready to respond to the needs of others when the time comes?

3. If the crisis has claimed lives, take a moment and pray a prayer for those who have lost loved ones, and whisper a prayer of thanksgiving for every member of your family, your friends, and acquaintances. How are your relationships going? If they are broken, fix them with God's help. We know that one may be called to meet the Lord at any given moment, and we cannot improve those relationships once a person is gone. What can you do today to make all of your relationships holy, loving, and others-centered, for God's glory? What can you do in the face of crises "elsewhere" to join those whose lives have been impacted, to build relationships that say, "I am [We are] with you? You are not alone!"

All of this, simply to say, don't ignore the crises others are enduring. They are a reminder of how close we are to crises ourselves. It is hard to prepare for a crisis, and it can be challenging to respond to one, particularly far away. But, we can prepare ourselves to be ready, to have resources, however limited, set aside, to send in response. We can demonstrate hearts that commit to right relationships to assure us of "no regrets" when those relationships are cut short by a crisis moment.

Nazarenes are faithful in giving. We have all probably been brought up to understand the biblical principle of "storehouse tithing" (the giving of 10% of our income in tithes). We have also been given many opportunities in our lives to give above and beyond our tithes for missions and ministries—offerings of love and sacrifice, for the sake of others. Crises call us to be faithful to both tithing and special offerings that will target the impact of the crisis, whatever and wherever it is, to meet the needs it has created.

During COVID-19, when it has appeared that giving was going to be hard-hit with the losses of

1 Wesley, John. "The Use of Money" Sermon #50, In *The Works of John Wesley*, Third Edition, Vol. VI. (Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1978), pp.124-136.

2 Dr. J. G. Morrison served the Church of the Nazarene as district superintendent, executive secretary of global missions, and as general superintendent.

jobs and rise in costs for the everyday things people need to survive, one might have wondered how this was impacting our giving. But, in so many accounts from around the world, people have been faithful to hold on to their tithe and bring it to the first service they could attend—sometimes two or three months-worth of giving—all the while stretching themselves to do more for neighbors who were worse off than themselves. This is done by love and devotion: devotion to God and His call to faithfulness, and love for others that reflects God’s own self-emptying love demonstrated in Christ (Philippians 2:1-11).

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Here are three presentation options that can be used in a traditional church setting, at home, or using video conferencing.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been important to provide activity options that can be done in the context of small-group settings or online gatherings. Whichever you use, be intentional about engaging all ages in the cause of missions, nurturing a “spirit of missions” in the local church.

Option 1—for a small group setting

Prepare

Prepare a copy of **Handout 1: The Challenges and Opportunities of COVID-19**, for each participant. Bring a sifter, and mix some marbles or small stones in with flour to demonstrate how, when one sifts, that which allowed to fall away can be used as a pure and holy offering to make something that nurtures others.

Present

Demonstrate how “sifting” works, and maybe make a recipe of cookies or a cake that can be baked during the course of the lesson time. Show how the purifying of the ingredients makes for something that can nurture, bring joy, and encourage the fellowship of “breaking bread” together across the dividing lines of those going through crisis moments and those who are not. Use Handout ONE to discuss over the shared cookies or cake, what COVID-19 has taught your group about the “challenges” and “opportunities” of this global crisis.

Option 2—for groups that include all ages

Prepare

Prepare a copy of **Handout 2: Let the Word Speak**, for each participant. The Scripture is provided, along with five ideas from the lesson to help participants think about how their faith is built in times of crisis.

Present

Break into small groups, and ask everyone to participate in sharing their insights from the Scripture and the lesson in answering the questions. Take time for children to offer their insights. Often children’s simple faith can help to strengthen the whole group. Have the group pray together after their discussion.

Option 3—an activity to inspire everyone to participate in giving during times of crises

Prepare

Prepare a copy of **Handout 3: What Can I Give?** for each participant. This inventory may require them to work with it in their home, either in advance or following the lesson.

Present

Explain that this exercise will require participants to take inventory of their excesses and consider how they might reduce those, realizing sales or savings, enabling them to build a “reserve” for God’s use in times of crisis. As the lesson leader, try to do this before the lesson to provide some examples for your participants to relate to and respond to.

ACT ON IT (practical ideas for personal involvement)

- Take a moment and give thanks for the many crises you hear about around the world that you have not had to endure. How can you “join those who are suffering in crises” and share from your reserves?
- Involve every member of the group, regardless of age, in a conversation about the balance of “challenges” and “opportunities” that come from crises. Which do they focus on?
- Consider how you might more effectively join NCM in responding to crises when they arise.
- Think seriously about the biblical principle of “storehouse tithing” and your faithfulness to tithe. Then, consider how you might build up reserves for the Lord’s use when you become aware of a crisis event that is impacting your brothers and sisters around the world.

RESOURCES (“handy helps” for the leader)

- **Websites:**
 - o Make Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) your first stop in searching for ways to respond to crises when they occur. Go to NCM’s website at: ncm.org
 - o There you will find opportunities to give and get involved in response to natural disasters, issues related to the needs of children, families, and communities who need help. There are featured projects on the site, and much more information that can assist you in making decisions about how you, your family, and your local church can respond in times of crisis.

RECIPES

In times of crisis, natural disaster, displacement due to conflict, and other critical circumstances, food and clean water is often one of the first obvious needs of those impacted by the event. In some parts of the world, a simple meal of rice, with a few spices, canned goods like beans and pulses that can be mixed with rice, oatmeal or cereals, or bread and milk—the simplest of nutritional meals—become the “go-to” food provisions to get a family through the early days of recovery. There are any number of ways to experiment with cooking emergency meals using the simplest ingredients.

Have your group try to find and prepare simple “post-disaster” dishes, and bring them to your missions lesson night, or try them in their homes if the lesson is to be done virtually. Allow them to explain how they came to the recipe and show the results, test the food, and report on how it tastes and what they might do to improve it knowing that in the aftermath of a crisis, it is often difficult to find special items that would enhance their meal. Just experiment with an “Open Recipe” night and have a conversation about how you might stock up on essentials to help those in need, or set aside the money you’d need to spend on such simple meals, so that you are ready to give to others when they are in need of such simple, nutritional meals to sustain life in a crisis.

(Handout 1)

The Challenges and Opportunities of COVID-19

The Sifting

List things that have been “sifted” from your life due to COVID-19.	List the opportunities this affords you.

(Handout 2)

Let the Word Speak

Scripture Reading:

Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders. (Psalm 107:23-32, NIV)

What does this passage tell us about the crises we face from time to time?

1. **Crises often come when we are in the midst of the challenges of our day-to-day lives.** Faith is needed in these times to direct our response.
2. **Our expertise often proves ineffective in quelling the storms that are tossing us up and down.**
3. **There is only One to whom we can turn to bring us out of our distress.**
4. **We must not forget to give thanks to God for His help.** It has often been noted that we, who have been spared one disaster or another, tend to forget that. When we see others facing disaster, our forgetfulness causes us to pity them from afar. But, giving in times of crises is a way in which we say, "We remember how close we came to calamity; we remember what that felt like, how alone we feared we were. Now is our opportunity to say, through our giving, to others: "You are not alone, and we know what you're feeling right now."
5. **We must learn to share our faith and our gratitude as the whole people of God.** When crises pass, and the clean-up of all the debris of recent days, weeks, or months is drawing to a close, it is right that we should, as the people of God, pause and give thanks to God for His help. The crisis has been our opportunity to be at least a part of the answer in whatever way we could—in giving and in prayer—and now we can together celebrate the God who brings us into safe haven.

Which of these five ideas are the most challenging for you to understand? Ask those in your group to help you in building your faith for times of crisis.

Which of these five ideas is the most common challenge in your group?

How might you, both individually and as a group, practice the faith needed to direct us to the right response?

(Handout 3) What Can I Give?

This exercise will require that you take inventory of your excesses and consider how you might reduce those, realizing sales or savings, enabling you to build a "reserve" for God's use in times of crisis.

Take inventory of what you have. What would you be willing to do without for the sake of others?	How might it be used by others? How might you build reserves for God's use?	What practical steps can you take to give out of your "reserves" in times of crisis?

12

Extended Reach by Cheryl Crouch

LESSON PURPOSE

To gain an understanding of the power local churches have to extend their reach beyond their walls and communities through raising up, sending out, and supporting missionaries.

SCRIPTURE:

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So, after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3, NIV)

FAST FACTS

- In the November, 1930 edition of *The Other Sheep*, a periodical that was produced by the Church of the Nazarene for many years, there appeared a brief report on Nazarene missions involvement around the world.¹ The following information was provided for the years 1898-1930:
 - We had work in Western India, the Cape Verde Islands (now Cabo Verde), Mexico, Eastern India, Japan, Africa, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru, Argentina, Syria, and the British West Indies.
 - The total years of combined service of missionaries in those places at that time was 1,607 years.
 - Imagine the total number of years served to date by all the missionaries the Church of the Nazarene has sent out (1898-2020).
 - In a report that spans the years from 1908-2019, there have been peaks and troughs of deployment of missionaries. For instance, in 1908, there were 19 missionaries officially representing the Church of the Nazarene. By 1923, that number had risen to 112. By 1948, the number was 204, and it continued to rise until 1980 to 547 missionaries deployed.
 - From then, the numbers shift up and down, to their highest of 801 in 2004, to a consolidated 586 in 2019. Deployment strategies, economic downturns (remember the Great Depression of 1932, and 2008-2009 when markets crashed), the retirement of a generation of lifelong, career missionaries, and the shift of missionaries from countries that were no longer in need of missionary presence, but have become totally indigenous in the leadership of the church, have all added to the changing statistics.
 - Of course, the number of countries (or fields as they were originally known) has grown from 13 to over 162 world areas.
- Each missionary represents a local congregation that nurtured them, and a denomination that sent them, believing that "Making Christlike Disciples in the Nations" is our God-called responsibility.
 - Every missionary that represents a local congregation carries the influence of that congregation to the field of service, and expands its reach beyond its local neighborhood. So, literally, your missionary is not the only member of your church carrying out the mission of God. Your entire congregation, regardless of its size, is "present" and "sharing" the Good News of Jesus in distant places they may never visit, among people whom they may never meet; but your missionary bears your influence and impact there.
 - Your reach is greater than you imagine!

¹ In 1974, *The Other Sheep* was replaced by *World Mission Magazine*. The Church of the Nazarene was considering internationalization and felt that *Other Sheep* suggested a sharp division between the "sending church" and "others."

LESSON INFORMATION

Introduction

It is easy to understand the value of the local church to us as individuals. Our church provides love, spiritual nurturing, and opportunities for service and growth. As we “do life together,” people from church become like family. These are great reasons to be part of a local church! We also witness the impact our church has on the surrounding community. We see the lost saved, and broken lives transformed. We feed the hungry from our food pantries and provide Christmas gifts for children who otherwise would not receive anything or participate in other hands-on ministries. Being part of positive change is another great reason to be part of a local church. In today’s lesson, we will consider yet another vital aspect of the local church. The local church is the ideal body for nurturing and sending out a missionary. When a church deploys a missionary, the reach of that church extends well beyond its walls, beyond its community, to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Calling

The local church has a unique chance to provide opportunities to inspire, foster, and nurture the call to serve in Nazarene missions. Whether through missions offerings at Vacation Bible School, missions reading books, Faith Promise services, or missionary visits, Nazarene Missions International in each local church should seek not only to raise prayer and financial support for those already serving in missions but also to awaken a desire in those God may be calling.

Nazarene missionary Charity (location not stated due to sensitivity of area) says, “My call was gradual and happened over time. Looking back, I can tie my local church (Fort Worth First Church of the Nazarene) to most of those developmental and deeply personal experiences. I was in fifth grade when my teacher Ms. Chacha first told me that I could be a missionary. I can remember missionaries coming to share on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, Wednesday services, Sunday school classes, and even during youth group time. Each time it was like the Lord was reassuring and inspiring me simultaneously.”

Perhaps your church has a Charity in your midst—someone open to God’s calling who needs to hear, “You could be a missionary.”

Application, Exploration, and Orientation

Once someone reaches to a local NMI president or pastor to express that they are beginning to discern a call to missions, and an interest in missionary service, what are the next steps? The “Send Me” resources are designed to help the local church know how to assist and guide those who sense a call upon their lives. As the individual is nurtured in the early days of their calling, the local NMI president and pastor remain close and available to help the individual with the next steps to be taken, one of which would be an interview with the local church board. The NMI president, along with the rest of the church board, can, at the appropriate time, recommend that the person receive application forms from Nazarene Missions. Applying will connect the candidate with the global church, yet the local church continues to play an important role throughout the entire process.

Now exploration begins, as the NMI president and local church help the candidate discern a call, prepare for service, and develop needed skills.

Even before this process became formalized, local churches were doing this good work. Charity says, “My children’s pastor Jennifer Sommers and youth pastor Nate Cook both walked beside me in the call—not just when I initially voiced it, but multiple times over the span of more than ten years.”

Jennifer Sommers says, “It is never too early to give people an opportunity to serve. Teach even your youngest children they can contribute and have meaningful involvement in ministry.”

Teresa Hodge, district NMI president of the East Tennessee district, shares, “As NMI President at Real Life Church of the Nazarene, I helped to guide Justin and Stephanie Miller (Nazarene missionaries to Papua New Guinea) to the appropriate ‘on-ramps’ to indicate their interest in Nazarene Missions. Pastor Gernand had them share their call with the church board and tell about my involvement in the process. After lengthy questions and much encouragement, the church board gathered around them, laid hands on their shoulders, and prayed for them.”

What a blessing for that church board to pray for this precious missionary family in a scene reminiscent of Acts 13:2-3! And what a blessing for these missionaries to experience such clear, tangible support from the leadership of their local church.

Hodge continues, speaking about the time of training and exploration, *“The Millers had been an integral part of our church, and the church’s support was great. Favorite memories of those days range from hosting the Millers in my home, with their young daughter Amber Joy standing on a stool to help me cook, to the farewell lunch that we shared as they were departing.”*

Placement and Preparation

It is an exciting time for the local church when a candidate receives a placement. As the missionary prepares for and then begins his or her service, the support of the local church and district becomes even more vital.

Missionary Bill Kwon shared about his local church’s involvement. *“Sangamdong Church of the Nazarene in Korea has been a strong supporter of our ministry. They announced that the Kwon family would be Nazarene missionaries, and we need to pray for them and support them. The church immediately decided to offer monthly financial support for our living. It was a big commitment for that size church.”*

Missionary David Potter shares a similar story about local church support, which continued after the “sending.” He notes, *“Mission Church of the Nazarene sent us off with loving offerings and prayers. Later, they were able to come with a Work and Witness team, where they saw our work firsthand and built staff housing. Dan and Vicki Copp, the pastors of Mission Church, led a youth retreat and ministered to our missionary children in a wonderful way.”*

Charity’s home church has also stayed connected and supportive, especially through prayer. She says, *“My local church continues to allow the whole congregation to pray over me when I visit during home assignment. Our children’s pastor has intentionally created spaces for the kids who are currently in her ministry to support me in prayer. She has gone way above and beyond in this regard! My young adult group at my local church sent me encouragement cards saying that they were praying. Members of some adult Sunday school classes also collected supplies to create a care package and wrote prayers of encouragement. This really helped with loneliness and homesickness in the early days.”*

Celebration and Connection

What about while the missionary is on the field? In a way, it might feel like a loss as the congregation misses a vital member. The reality, however, seems to be the opposite. Local churches are energized and encouraged by their direct link to the mission field.

Since the Sangamdong church sent the Kwons, God has blessed them. Under the leadership of Dr. Shin, the church has grown up from 60 members to 1,500 members in 10 years. The Kwon’s ministry has grown up with that of the church, and the church remains committed to them. Kwon says, *“They never stopped funding for my family and ministry since 2003. We praise the Lord.”*

Real Life Church of the Nazarene NMI president says their church LOVES getting texts from Stephanie with prayer requests and praises. *“She is a remarkable communicator, so we are blessed to get frequent, vibrant updates about their missionary life in Papua New Guinea. We talk as time, and time zones allow, and Facebook posts and texts are frequent.”* The connection with the Millers and the mission field has been a great encouragement for the local church.

Similarly, Jennifer Sommers shares about the impact of having “their own” from Fort Worth First serve as missionaries. *“As Charity and others come back from the mission field and are vocal about their calls, the fire begins to spread among our young people. They see regular people that they know making a difference, and it is powerful! It is one thing to read about strangers, but something else to hear from someone they have connections to.”*

Does a local church play a vital part in the calling, preparation, and sending of a missionary? Charity confesses, *“The reality is that I would not be serving overseas now without the love, encouragement, and intentional support of my local church.”*

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Here are three presentation options that can be used in a traditional church setting, at home, or using video conferencing.

Option 1—Stretch

Prepare

- If you can, get a “reacher-grabber”—a tool sold as a “daily living aid,” which is a wooden or metal pole with a handle on one end and closing tongs on the other. If you don’t have the tool, describe it, or show a video of it. (See link under resources.)
- Make a copy of the lesson material and divide it to distribute to different readers.
- Make a copy of “Send a Missionary” (handout at the end of the lesson) for each attendee, OR if you plan to play the game, follow the instructions for boards, game pieces, and gathering dice or spinners.
- Recruit guest readers. Give each reader the portion of the lesson which he or she will read.

Present

Open with the following illustration:

Say: If you have ever had an incapacitating illness or injury, you might have discovered the usefulness of the “reacher-grabber.” Some use it when doing yard work or picking up debris without having to bend over. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many have found this tool useful in “touchless applications,” such as giving or receiving small gifts. This tool allows you to extend your reach—to retrieve items you otherwise wouldn’t have been able to touch. (If you are able, demonstrate tool or show video.)

In a similar way, the local church which sends out a missionary extends its reach and impacts lives over which it otherwise would not have had influence.

Today, we’re going to learn about some specific local churches that have played an integral part in sending missionaries from among their own church bodies.

- Invite readers to read different sections of the Lesson Information.
- Invite attendees to fill in the “**Send a Missionary**” gameboard-style handout with ways your church might raise up and send out a missionary.
- If you want to play the “**Send a Missionary**” game as a review, divide into groups of four. Distribute prepared game boards, playing pieces, and dice or spinners. Read the instructions aloud and allow each group to fill in their boards and then play the game.
- Bring the “reacher grabber” back out. Remind attendees that sending a missionary will extend the reach of your congregation, allowing you to touch lives you otherwise could not.
- Close with prayer that God might raise up a missionary from your own church body.

Option 2—Let Us Help You! (for groups of all ages that like activity)

Prepare

Blow up at least 30 balloons or gather 30 large balls or stuffed animals. Put these together at one end of the room.

Gather four large canvas tote bags (each should be large enough to hold multiple inflated balloons). Affix a different label to each bag: prayer, finances, encouragement, contact.

Gather six large trash bags (3 per team).

Using chairs, string, or tape, mark off a barrier that teams must stay behind during the activity.

Present

Divide your group into two teams. Each team will be a “local church.” Encourage them to make up fun or silly church names to build team spirit! Explain that the “church” which gets the most balloons into

its trash bags, will win. They will choose a “missionary” who will be the only team member who can cross the room to collect balloons. (Note: This is an excellent opportunity to involve a child or teen!) The missionary should gather as many balloons as possible on each trip and carry them back to their church. If the missionary drops a balloon during a trip, he must go back with all those balloons and start that trip again. Once the missionary gets back to the church, all the church members may help put the balloons in the trash bags.

The first time, call “go” and have the missionaries run over, grab as many balloons as possible, and bring them back to the team. Repeat until all the balloons are inside trash bags. Count to see which team won.

Offer a rematch but this time allow one local church to offer their missionary the large canvas tote bags labeled with the words: prayer, finances, encouragement, and contact. The missionary should be able to bring back MANY more balloons on each trip.

After the rematch, ask the team which did not have bags if they felt it was a fair contest. If not, ask why. Encourage everyone to make a comparison to real life. What advantages would missionaries have whose local church prayed for them, supported them financially, encouraged them, and stayed in contact with them? How might the local church which offers this support end up “winning”?

- Invite readers to read different sections of the Lesson Information.
- Close with prayer that God might raise up a missionary from your own church body.

Option 3—How about us? (for groups that like discussion)

Prepare

- Recruit guest readers. Give each reader the portion of the lesson which he or she will read.
- Read through the discussion questions and choose those which fit your group.
- Make copies of “Quiz: Profile of a Missionary-Sending Church” (handout at the end of the lesson) for each attendee.
- Make copies of “Mission Lesson: Extended Reach–Notes” (handout at the end of the lesson) for each attendee, if desired.
- If desired, make copies of “Create-a-Hero” (handout at the end of the lesson) and cut figures apart.

Present

Open with these questions and give group members the opportunity to respond.

- What benefits do you gain from belonging to this local church?
- How could the reach of our church be extended if we were able to raise up and send a missionary from this local church?
- What do you think it would take for us to raise up and send a missionary from this local church?

Pass out copies of “Quiz: Profile of a Missionary-Sending Church” and invite attendees to complete it. Discuss the truth that ANY size church from ANY area can be a missionary-sending church.

Pass out copies of “Mission Lesson: Extended Reach–Notes” and invite attendees to take notes during the presentation if they desire.

Invite readers to read different sections of the Lesson Information.

After “Calling,” ask:

- How did Charity’s local church help her hear God’s call to be a missionary?
- How could we help those in our local church hear God’s call to be a missionary?

After “Application, Exploration, and Orientation,” ask:

- What leaders in Charity’s local church, in addition to the NMI President, played an important part as Charity explored her call?

- How could leaders of our church's children's and youth ministries help young people explore their calls?
- How did the NMI president, pastor, and church board of Justin and Stephanie Miller's local church play an important part as the Millers explored their calls?
- How could our NMI president, pastor, church board, and leaders of our church's men's and women's ministries help adults explore their calls?

After "Placement and Preparation," ask:

- How did Bill Kwon's local church support him and his family after he received his placement?
- How did David and Sylvia Potter's local church support them after they received their placement?
- How did Charity's local church support her after she received her placement?
- How might our local church continue to offer support to a missionary from our own church after he or she leaves for the field?

After "Celebration and Connection," ask:

- How did the churches in this lesson benefit from having "one of their own" on the mission field?
- How might our church be encouraged and energized by having "one of our own" serving on the mission field?

If desired, allow attendees to choose figures cut from the "Create-a-Hero" sheet. Read and follow the instructions, allowing members to brainstorm and then share about their characters.

Close with prayer that God will help your church create a nurturing environment for people to hear God's call to missions and that your church might raise up and send out missionaries.

ACT ON IT (practical ideas for personal involvement)

- Be sure to include children, youth, and adults to have access to the missions reading books.
- Be sure children, youth, and adults are included when missionaries speak at your church or help make it possible for them to attend when missionaries speak at camps, assemblies, or area gatherings.
- Invite your NMI Council to meet with leaders from your children's and youth departments to discuss ways your church can help young people hear God's call to missions.
- Ask your pastor to invite anyone in the congregation who senses a call to missions to meet with your NMI president.

RESOURCES

• **Videos**

- This video demonstrates the "reacher-grabber" tool:
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=reacher+grabber&docid=608026128689270155&mid=B30613BD2E95AA5B724AB30613BD2E95AA5B724A&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

• **Websites**

- On this website, the Missionary Model Brochure and Missions Presentation (PowerPoint) both contain helpful information about the steps to becoming a Nazarene missionary and how a local church NMI can be a part:
<https://nazarene.org/resources/nazarene-missions-resources-english>
- This website is a great source for videos and PowerPoints related to sending missionaries:
<https://nazarene.org/missions#missionary>

- If someone in your church feels called, this website can help him, or her, submit an inquiry form, register for an “Explore” event, or look for potential places of service! It has links labeled “Start Your Journey,” “Exploring Missions,” and even “Open Positions.”
<https://nazarene.org/who-we-are/organization/ministries/global-missions/send-me>

RECIPES

Recipe: Asian Noodles

This super flexible recipe comes from the area where Charity currently serves. Feel free to adapt by adding or deleting ingredients based on what you have available!

Basic Ingredients:

1 Pound dry rice noodles (vermicelli)
1 Tbs (15 ml) oil
1 Tbs (15 ml) minced garlic
1 medium onion, sliced
1 large green pepper, sliced
1 large carrot, grated or thinly sliced
¼ head of bok choy or cabbage, sliced
3 Tbs (15 ml) soy sauce
1/4 tsp (1.25 ml) dried red chili pepper flakes (optional)
1 tsp (5 ml) to 1 Tbl (15 ml) curry powder (to taste)

Optional ingredients:

Chicken breast, cooked and thinly sliced
Boneless pork chops, cooked and thinly sliced
Shrimp, cooked and ready to eat

Instructions:

Boil rice noodles according to directions; set aside.
Heat oil in a large skillet or wok. Sauté the garlic and vegetables in the hot oil.

Optional: Add cooked chicken, pork, and/or shrimp to vegetables and heat through.
In a small dish, mix soy sauce, pepper flakes (optional), and curry powder.
Add noodles and sauce to the cooked vegetables and toss until sauce coats all.

(HANDOUT 1)

Quiz: Profile of a Missionary-Sending Church

What type of church is likely to send missionaries from among its own congregation?
Take this quiz and see if you know what it takes to be a missionary-sending church.

1. Missionaries come from churches that are
 - a. Smaller—less than 50 in membership
 - b. Medium—from 50 to 200
 - c. Large—more than 200
 - d. All sizes

2. Missionaries come from churches that are
 - a. In the United States
 - b. In both the United States and Canada
 - c. In both North and South America
 - d. All over the globe

3. Missionaries come from churches that
 - a. Teach about missions
 - b. Bring missionaries in to speak
 - c. Pray for missions and financially support missions
 - d. All of the above

4. Missionaries come from churches where
 - a. Children's leaders are excited about missions
 - b. Youth leaders are excited about missions
 - c. Adult leaders are excited about missions
 - d. All of the above

5. Missionaries come from churches that
 - a. Help them realize they can become missionaries
 - b. Encourage them in their callings
 - c. Walk with them through their training
 - d. All of the above

If you chose all "D" answers, you aced this quiz. Congratulations!

Now for the real test: How well does your church score as a missionary-sending church?

(HANDOUT 2)
Mission Lesson: Extended Reach

Notes

Name _____

Date _____

Calling

Placement and Preparation

Celebration and Connection

Other notes

(HANDOUT 3)

Games to Play

Use the game board on the next page to imagine some of the ways your congregation might participate in raising up and sending out a missionary from your own local body.

Write ideas where they fit on the path. Example: “Encourage kids to read missions books” might come before “Calling.”

“SEND A MISSIONARY” INSTRUCTIONS

Preparation:

Copy one game board per every 4 people. You’ll also need one die or a numbered spinner for each group of 4.

Make enough copies of the last page of avatars for each person to get a playing piece. Cut them apart.

To play:

Instruct each team to follow instructions on the board, working together to fill in all the blanks.

When boards are completed, players take turns spinning or rolling the die to advance their pieces. The first player to land on a square will read it aloud, and any player who has participated in that activity (ex: read a mission book) may advance one space.

The first player to the finish line is the winner—but remember, when we raise up, send, and support missionaries, we are ALL winners!

CREATE-A-HERO CHALLENGE

Make enough copies of the last page of avatars for each attendee to get one character. Invite them to create a backstory for a hero—a person who might influence a future missionary from your church. It could be a children’s pastor, youth pastor, Sunday school teacher, NMI president, prayer warrior, encourager, friend... the list is endless!

Invite participants to share about the person they created.

Close this time by sharing about some real-life inspiring heroes in your church.

Send A Missionary

